

The Memorial Church of Harvard University
Music Notes for May 7, 2023

Jonathan Dove is a prolific English composer whose music spans the worlds of opera, theater, film, and the church; his *Missa brevis* was commissioned by the Cathedral Organists' Association and was premiered in Wells Cathedral in May 2009. The movements heard this morning display several signature traits of Dove's compositional personality: the *Gloria* is rhythmic and dance-like, while the *Agnus Dei* is built over organ pedal points punctuated by short chordal phrases in the choir.

American composer Katherine Webb is Canon for Cathedral Music at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland, Oregon. "Listen, Sweet Dove" is a gentle and fluid setting of words by George Herbert, incorporating the famous Pentecost plainsong *Veni Creator Spiritus*.

Brenda Portman serves as the Resident Organist at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. The prelude is a movement from her *Psalms Sonata No. 1*, each movement of which reacts to a different psalm verse.

French organist and composer Louis-James Alfred Lefébure-Wély was closely associated with the organ builder Aristide Cavallé-Coll, and inaugurated many of his famous instruments. In 1847 he became organist of Paris's Madeleine Church (where the Harvard University Choir will perform during its upcoming tour of that city) where he would present his organ compositions, many of which have been compared to the choruses from contemporary French operetta.