

The Memorial Church of Harvard University Music Notes for September 10, 2023

This morning we welcome the voices of candidates auditioning for the Harvard University Choir, as well as its returning members. Sir Hubert Parry was born in Bournemouth, England, and attended Eton and Exeter College, Oxford. A scholar as well as a composer, Parry worked for Sir Henry Groves's new *Dictionary of Music and Musicians* as an editor and contributor, and in 1883 was appointed Professor of Musical History at the Royal College of Music, London, later to become Professor of Music at Oxford University. *I Was Glad* was originally written for the coronation of Edward VII in 1902, and has been used—with revisions—at every subsequent British coronation, most recently that of Charles III. The work is a setting of verses from Psalm 122; the music is influenced by both the pomp that accompanies the coronation liturgy, and the elegiac supplications for peace and prosperity found towards the end of the psalm.

Eurydice V. Osterman was born in Atlanta, Georgia and was educated at Andrews University and the University of Alabama. From 1978 until her retirement in 2016, Osterman was a member of the faculty of Oakwood University in Huntsville where she was the primary theory teacher and director of the Oakwood College Choir. She also served for periods as director of the Aeolians and as chair of the music department. *Create in Me a Clean Heart* begins meditatively; it gains in intensity while imploring “Cast me not away from thy presence,” before settling back into peace again.

In addition to a lifelong dedication to the music of the Anglican Church, Sir William Walton composed avidly for the cinema. His collaboration with Laurence Olivier on Shakespeare's *Henry V* resulted in one of his finest scores, from which this morning's prelude is taken. The postlude is an arrangement of Rachmaninoff's piano *Prelude in G Minor* by Gottfried Federlein, who was organist of New York's Temple Emanu-El for over thirty years.