

The Memorial Church of Harvard University
Music Notes for Sunday, November 24, 2023

The youngest recipient of the Pulitzer Prize, composer Caroline Shaw is most renowned for her vocal music, much of which incorporates “extended” singing techniques. This morning’s beautiful setting of Psalm 84 was composed in reaction to the Syrian refugee crisis; set for double-choir, there is a sonic evocation of the “autumn rains” at its conclusion.

David Lang was co-founder of the musical collective *Bang on a Can* and is now the Artist in Residence at the Institute for Advanced Study. *again (after ecclesiastes)* is a free adaptation (by the composer) of verses from the beginning of the Book of Ecclesiastes, whose text is concerned with the cycle of the seasons and other natural and human cycles.

Estonian composer Arvo Pärt composes in a minimalist style that has achieved widespread popularity. His organ cycle *Annum per annum* was commissioned for the 900th anniversary of the Cathedral in Speyer, Germany, and is written in the style of an organ mass, in which each section represents a different section of the ordinary. Brenda Portman serves as the Resident Organist at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. The prelude is a movement from her *Psalm Sonata No. 1*, each movement of which reacts to a different psalm verse.