

Richard J. Clark, Mark Dwyer, Ross Wood, Leo Abbott

Sponsored by Frederick A. MacArthur

Ascent to Freedom (2005) Richard J. Clark (b. 1969)

I. Praeludium

II. Adagio e lamentabile

III. Tranquillo e dolce, *If You but Trust in God to Guide You*

IV. Moderato e spiccato, *Go Down Moses*, Elevation Toccatà

V. Adagio e cantabile, *How Can I Keep from Singing?*

Richard J. Clark

Pageant of Autumn, H. 234 Leo Sowerby (1895–1968)

Mark Dwyer

Intermission

Symphony No. 10, Op. 73 (Romane) Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

I. Moderato

II. Choral

Ross Wood

24 Pièces de Fantaisie, Op. 55, No. 4 Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

Naiades

Toccatà, Fugue and Hymn on Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

Ave Maris Stella, Op.28

Leo Abbott

*This program commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the
June 24, 1947, Great Organ rededication concert
played by Arthur Howes, Carl Weinrich, and Ernest White.*

Richard J. Clark has served as Archdiocesan and Cathedral Director of Music & Organist since 2018 after serving for nearly twenty-nine years at St. Cecilia Parish in Boston. He also served Boston College and the Jesuit Community for sixteen years (2004-2020) as Organist and Cantor at St. Mary's Chapel.

His compositions have been performed worldwide and are published with Lorenz/The Sacred Music Press, WLP/GIA Publications, Saint Michael Hymnal (Fifth Edition - 2021), Saint Jean de Brébeuf Hymnal (Sophia Institute Press 2019), CanticaNOVA Publications, and others. As performer and composer, his eclectic appearances range from the Celebrity Series of Boston, St. Patrick's Cathedral (NY), Saint-Eustache (Paris), the Boston Philharmonic to Jive Records (Sony BMG) and Fenway Park. Clark's compositions have also been heard under the batons of Fernando Malvar-Ruiz (The American Boychoir) and John Robinson (St. Paul's Choir School) as well as on radio and television including EWTN and SiriusXM Radio's "Sounds from the Spires." Clark's *Te Teum* for soloists, chorus, and orchestra was premiered in Paris and Levallois, France, in 2022.

Notably, Mr. Clark's *Ascent to Freedom* received its Russian Federation première in 2013 in the cities of Kislovodsk (Кисловодск) and Yessentuki (Ессентуки) by virtuoso organist Mark Husey of Los Angeles. Born in Greenwich Village, New York City, Clark grew up on Long Island, and lives with his wife and four children in Milton, MA.

Mark Dwyer - Well-known as one of the most gifted organists of his generation, Mark Dwyer has held the position of Organist and Choirmaster of The Church of the Advent, Boston since 2007, where he worked for, and later succeeded his mentor, Edith Ho, who was Arthur Howes' prize pupil. He has held similar positions at St. Paul's Church, K Street in Washington, DC and The Cathedral of All Saints in Albany, New York. Dr. Dwyer is active as an organ recitalist, having presented programs throughout the United States and in England. He conducts The Advent Choir, an all-professional ensemble of 18 singers. During his tenure, The Advent Choir has become known not only for their stylish performances of Renaissance polyphony, but also for their impassioned readings of 20th and 21st century works. His work as conductor, accompanist and recitalist may be heard on the JAV, Arsis, and AFKA recording labels.

Mr. Dwyer is a graduate of the New England Conservatory. In 2012, Nashotah House Seminary awarded him the degree, Doctor of Music, honoris causa, in recognition of his contributions to the field of sacred music. Dwyer's teachers include Yuko Hayashi and Charles Krigbaum, a protégé of Carl Weinrich. During his college years, Dr Dwyer was associated with St George's Church, Bridgeport, CT, Ernest White's final church position.

Ross Wood - Praised for his “exquisite playing” (Journal of the Association of Anglican Musicians), Ross Wood has been Associate Organist at the Parish of All Saints, Ashmont, since 2018, having previously served at Boston’s Church of the Advent (2001-2016) and Trinity Church (1985-2001). He received his doctorate from Eastman School of Music in the studio of Russell Saunders after undergraduate study at Southern Methodist University with Robert Anderson. Balancing music with librarianship at Wellesley College for many years, he has recently held interim positions at Church of the Redeemer, Chestnut Hill, and Emmanuel Church, Boston.

Mr. Wood’s recital appearances include the National Cathedral in Washington, St. Philip’s Cathedral in Atlanta, New York’s St. Patrick’s Cathedral, St. Thomas Church, Church of St. Mary the Virgin, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and Trinity Church, Wall Street. In France, he has appeared at Notre-Dame de Paris, the American Cathedral in Paris, and festivals in Bourges and Carcassonne.

Equally appreciated as an accompanist, Mr. Wood’s four CDs with the Trinity Choir garnered critical acclaim. He accompanied the choir on tour at Westminster Abbey and St. Paul’s Cathedral, as well as Ely and Chichester cathedrals. He has appeared before conventions of the AGO, the American Choral Directors Association, and the Association of Anglican Musicians. His recitals have been broadcast on NPR and the BBC. With orchestra, he has appeared as soloist with the Dallas Symphony under Leonard Slatkin, with the BSO under James Levine, and the Boston Pops under Keith Lockhart.

Leo Abbott is a graduate of the St. Paul Choir School, Cambridge, and the Chaloff School of Music, Boston. His teachers include Theodore Marier, George Faxon, Clarence Watters, and Flor Peeters, in organ; Naji Hakim in improvisation; and Julius Chaloff in piano. He holds the Fellowship and Choir Master Certificates of the American Guild of Organists, has won first prize in several international and national competitions, and was a finalist at the "Grand Prix de Chartres" in 1984. In 1986, he was appointed Music Director and Organist of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston. After nearly 33 years, Mr. Abbott retired from the Cathedral, and was given the title of Music Director and Organist Emeritus. Mr. Abbott has performed for conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society, and in France, Belgium, Great Britain, Ireland, and across the United States. He is an active member of the American Guild of Organists, and the Organ Historical Society.