

LENTEN CONCERT SERIES

April 4, 2019 • 12 Noon

Sarah Cote, viola
Douglas Murray, organ

Poem for Viola and Organ (1941)

Leo Sowerby
(1895-1968)

Forlana from *Five Bagatelles for Clarinet*

arranged for viola and organ by V. L. Jacobs and Douglas Murray

Gerald Finzi
(1901-1956)



Leo Sowerby was an American original. A product of the Midwest, Sowerby was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan and spent his professional life in Chicago. He came of age during the jazz era and wrote pieces for Paul Whiteman's jazz orchestra. "Dr. Leo," as his students called him, was associated with two Chicago institutions: the American Conservatory (where he taught students such as Gerald Near and Nashville's Peter Fyfe) and St. James Cathedral (Episcopal). The Chicago Symphony premiered his symphonies, he won the Pulitzer Prize for music, he edited *The Hymnal* (1940), and he composed many organ pieces and much choral music. At his death, he was dubbed "the Dean of American Church Music." For those who love his music, his jazz-inflected, bitter-sweet, chromatic, art-deco style is immediately recognizable. His "Poem" was written in 1941 for William Primrose, the greatest violist of his era.

Gerald Finzi, despite his Italian last name, was English to the core and a chief exponent of the English "pastoral" style. His "Eclogue for Piano and Orchestra," Clarinet Concerto, and anthems are irreplaceable. The Forlana, originally written for piano and clarinet, adopts a Venetian dance form into three minutes of tender, 6/8 charm.



Sarah Cote has been a member of the string faculty at Belmont University since 2003. In addition to her viola studio she performs as a member of the Belmont Camerata and as a soloist with orchestral and choral ensembles. Trained as an orchestral musician, Ms. Cote was a full time member of the San Antonio Symphony for seventeen years. She has also performed with the Nashville Symphony, the Alabama Symphony and the New Jersey Symphony. As a member of the faculty at Eastern Music Festival she plays in the Eastern Philharmonic Orchestra and the Eastern Chamber Players.

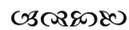
Douglas Murray is Professor of English at Belmont University, where he has taught since 1987. A native of North Carolina, he is a graduate of Pfeiffer College, Meisenheimer, NC and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is organist at Nashville's Second Presbyterian Church. He counts Stanley Scheer, Peter Fyfe, William Porter, Gerre Hancock and Wilma Jensen as his organ mentors. He has made a particular study of organ improvisation and has won Second and Third Prizes in the National Competition in Organ Improvisation.



Still to Come in the Series

April 11 **Gayle Sullivan**, organ

Each half-hour concert begins at noon in the sanctuary. Following the concert, lunch is available at 12:30 p.m. in McWhirter Hall for \$10. **Lunch requires a reservation.** Register online at westendumc.org/lentenconcerts or call the church at 615.321.8500 by noon on Wednesday, one day prior to each concert.



A Festival of Hymns
Sunday, May 5 • 4:30 p.m.
West End UMC Chancel Choir & Sanctuary Choirs
with Tom Trenney, guest conductor/organist



West End United Methodist Church
2200 West End Avenue • Nashville, Tennessee 37203 • 615.321.8500