

# THE COMPLETE WORKS OF KEVIN F.J. HARRIS

VOL. VI

LITURGICAL & ORGAN



 opus



**Kevin F.J. Harris**

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VOLUME VI

**LITURGICAL & ORGAN**

GARRITAN PERSONAL ORCHESTRA

## THE COMPLETE WORKS OF KEVIN F.J. HARRIS

Kevin Francis Joseph Harris was born on March 19, 1965. Seven years later he was at a friend's house sitting at a piano, ignoring his friend's cries to come play. Instead he chose to play the piano and without a single lesson under his belt he began forming his own simple tunes. His friend's mother noticed the gift and later that day called Harris' mother telling her about what he had been doing, and urged his mother to enroll Harris in piano lessons. For the next four years he took lessons and performed in recitals. During his fourth year he approached his piano teacher about learning composition. His piano teacher said she couldn't teach him composition. That evening he composed a very short piece for piano and then played it for his teacher the next time they met. She was very impressed, and despite needing to make a few corrections to the notation, the piece was an amazing feat having had no training in composition. He asked her again if she would teach him composition, but again she declined. With that he got up, took his music, walked out her front door and slammed it shut. He walked home and made the decision to quit altogether and for fifteen years he neither played nor composed.

In 1991 he met a mathematician who was also an amateur composer. He offered to teach Harris the very basics of composition. From there he would spend time reading the scores of Mozart, Beethoven, and Haydn, soaking in as much as he could. In 1992 he composed his first compositions, and for the next seven years he would be extremely prolific. His style would eventually migrate away from Mozart and Haydn toward Beethoven and Schubert, adding in his own stylistic forms as well. Since that time Harris has composed over 80 compositions ranging from simple piano pieces to larger scale works for orchestra and chorus.

His compositions are often described as powerful and emotional, with a unique voice that captures the essence of his own experiences. Harris often speaks about the importance of following one's passion, even in the face of adversity or discouragement. His dedication to his craft and his unwavering commitment to his artistic vision have made him a true hero to all those who love his music.



## **Prelude & Fugue for Organ in D minor, WoO 17**

1. *Prelude - Fugue* 2:59

## **Musica del Nozze, Op. 26**

2. *Prelude* 1:23

3. *Processional No. 1 (Bride's Maids)* 1:23

4. *Processional No. 2 (Bride's March)* 1:53

5. *Recessional* 1:51

## **"God is Our Refuge" for four voices, Op. 34**

6. *Music a capella* 2:23

## **"My Soul finds Rest in God Alone" for four voices, Op. 36**

7. *Music a capella* 2:40

## **Mass in D minor, Op. 41/41a**

8. *Kyrie* 3:25

9. *Gloria* 1:30

## **Kyrie in F minor for Orchestra and SATB Chorus, Op 43**

10. *Grave* 5:29

## LITURGICAL & ORGAN

### **Prelude & Fugue for Organ in D minor, WoO 17**

This work was composed after the death of a friend of his named Patricia who was the organist and vocalist at St. Margaret-Mary Church in Bullhead City, Arizona.

### **Musica del Nozze, Op. 26**

Music for a Wedding was composed in 2004 for a friend of his sister's who wanted custom, and traditional, wedding music for her special day. The work starts out with a prelude, followed by the entrance of the bride's maids, then the entrance and march of the bride, and the set concludes with a recessional as the happy couple leave the church as husband and wife.

### **"God is Our Refuge", Op. 34**

This was Harris' first time delving into the realm of music a capella (music performed without instrumental accompaniment). The lyrics for this piece were derived from Psalm 46.

### **"My Soul finds Rest in God Alone", Op. 36**

Harris' second piece in the music a capella style. The lyrics for this piece were derived from Psalm 62.

## **Mass in D minor (unfinished), Op. 41/41a**

In 2012 Harris undertook work on a complete mass for orchestra and chorus, but abandoned the work within a few months. The Kyrie was finished, and so he released that as a standalone piece (Op. 41). In 2014 he finished work on the beginning of the Gloria and released it as opus 41a. These two pieces have been recombined for this album.

## **Kyrie in F minor for Orchestra and SATB Chorus, Op. 43**

On Christmas Eve 2014 Harris was at rock bottom. He was jobless and just about a month away from losing his apartment. He had no friends, no family nearby, and his state of mind was in a downward spiral. That night he contemplated suicide, but having a strong faith in God, he knew in his heart that suicide was an abomination in the eyes of God. So instead he went to his office and composed this piece in about an hour. This Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy), unlike the opus 41/41a, expressed every ounce of sorrow and despair Harris was feeling at the time. The piece is scored for full orchestra and chorus. The second theme of the piece, the Christe Eleison (Christ have mercy), is a beautiful theme that represents the mercy and love of God in difficult times.

# Missa brevis

von

FRANZ JOSEF HARRIS

Kyrie

I give this unto thee oh Lord,  
with my thanks for all you hath  
done for me. Thank you Father  
in Heaven for thy blessings,  
forgive my sins and look with  
favor upon your servant,

F.J. Harris

The image shows a musical score for a Kyrie, consisting of four staves of music. Each staff begins with a rest followed by a melodic phrase. The lyrics are: *i-son*, *E-le-i-son*, *E-le-i-son*, *E-le* on the first staff; *E-le-i-son*, *E-le-i-son* on the second; *E-le-i-son*, *E-le-i-son* on the third; and *i-son*, *E-le-i-son*, *E-le-i-son*, *E-* on the fourth. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed above the first note of each staff. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, often beamed together and slurred.

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**In loving memory:** Harold Kaska (1926-2001)

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