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I hope everyone has a fun and safe St. Patrick's Day weekend. As for this Sunday, it's Craig Courtney Week here at Goddard!

This sacred choral music composer began playing the piano at age three in his home in Indiana. He also started playing the cello at age eleven. He received a Bachelors and a Masters degree in piano performance at the University of Cincinnati under Raymond Dudley and chamber music under Walter Levin.

Courtney studied piano with Illonka Deckers, performed for the Associazione Musicale "Gustav Mahler," and worked as a vocal coach during a three-year stay in Italy. After this, he was invited to join the music faculty at the famed Mozarteum in Salzburg as a piano teacher and accompanist.

During his time in Austria, Courtney began directing a church choir and composing sacred choral music until one piece caught the attention of John Ness Beck in 1985. This began a close relationship between the two and they would compose pieces together, like this week's new Consecration, until Beck's death in 1987.

At this point in time, Courtney's published works include more than 160 choral octavos, 8 vocal collections, a piano solo collection, and 6 extended works for choir and orchestra. We hope you enjoy these pieces!