



## Sacred Choral

### *KYRIE*

### *FROM MESSE POUR TROIS VOIX DE FEMMES ET ORGUE*

**(BIOGRAPHY)** Gabriel Cusson (1903-1972), blind since childhood, studied composition with [Nadia Boulanger](#) in Paris (1924-1930) during which time he wrote his *Messe* (1924) for the nuns of one of the convents there. It is known that the work received at least a reading at the convent. **(BACKGROUND)** Only recently known for his choral writing (see [CMH 17](#)), Cusson exhibits a fine skill with voices although his work requires great skill in vocal dexterity. **(PUBLICATIONS)** *CMH* "[Mass Excerpts / Extraits de messes](#)" **(MUSIC)** [Chromatic](#) and seemingly in perpetual motion, the voices interweave, creating striking tonal juxtapositions which is all the more remarkable considering Cusson's blindness. **(FURTHER READING)** [EMC 2](#), 336.



Nadia Boulanger at the console of the organ in her Paris apartment, ca.1920 private collection of Roger Violet.

