



January 28, 2022
12:10 p.m.
Sanctuary

Friday Noonday Concert

John W. W. Sherer, *organ*

- Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*
- Deep River *African American spiritual / arr. Hans Uwe Hielscher (b. 1945)*
- Choral No. 2 in B Minor *César Franck (1822–1890)*
- Meditation and Toccata on “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” *Christopher Pardini (b. 1973)*

For those attending in person, please note that on the Fourth Church campus, everyone is required to wear masks, fully covering the nose and mouth, regardless of vaccination status.

Organist John Sherer has been hailed by critics as “a terrific musician, a pronounced virtuoso who plays with assurance, authority, and superb energy.” Reviewers have praised him for his “great creativity and élan” and proclaimed, “As usual, Sherer communicated both the demanding and subtle qualities of the program through utilizing both his remarkable virtuoso technique and his sensitive musical sense to serve the requirements of the music.” Dr. Sherer has performed numerous recitals throughout the United States, Japan, and England, including several for regional and national organist conventions.

Since 1996 Dr. Sherer has been the Organist and Director of Music for Fourth Church, which was selected by *USA Today* as one of the top ten places in America to be “enthralled by heavenly music.” This dynamic church has fifteen choirs and instrumental groups including the Morning Choir (a twenty-five voice professional ensemble) and Tower Brass (a professional octet). In 2015, Fourth Church dedicated a new 142-rank Quimby organ, the largest pipe organ in Chicago.

Dr. Sherer manages an active concert series at the church with more than 100 events each year. He has led several music mission trips and choir tours in the United States, England, France, Cuba, and Guatemala. Dr. Sherer was recently selected as one of fifty prominent Chicagoans living with passion and purpose and was featured in the book *Bright Lights of the Second City*. Dr. Sherer is also featured on a YouTube video called “An Instrument the Size of a Building,” watched by more than 5 million people.

In addition to his work at the church, Dr. Sherer is University Organist at North Park University in Chicago, where he teaches and plays for several major events each year, and also works with the choir of—and plays organ for—Chicago Sinai Congregation when they hold High Holy Day Services at Fourth Church. He is also on the faculty of Vandercook School of Music.

A native of Xenia, Ohio, Dr. Sherer is married to the Reverend Kara Wagner Sherer, an Episcopal priest, and has two daughters. He enjoys yoga, tai chi, bicycling, gardening, painting, and anything related to the *R.M.S. Titanic*. He has studied organ with David Mulbury, Roberta Gary, Thomas Murray, and John Weaver and conducting with John Leman and Walden Moore. He received two bachelor degrees, in organ performance and choral music education, from the University of Cincinnati College–Conservatory of Music. He earned two master’s degrees at Yale University, majoring in organ performance and art in religion, and received the doctor of musical arts degree from the Juilliard School.

Our free Friday Noonday Concert Series is enabled by three generous gifts:

one in memory of
Pamela L. McGaan,
devoted wife and mother, lover of music, and longtime member of Fourth Church;

one from the estate of
Ann Dow Weinberg,
also a longtime member of Fourth Church and a lover of music
as well as a faithful attender of these Friday Noonday Concerts;

and one from the endowment of
Rosemary J. Schnell.

If you would like to sponsor a Friday Noonday Concert in honor of a friend, loved one, or music mentor or to observe a special occasion or anniversary, please contact Katy Frey Bever at 312.981.3380 (kbever@fourthchurch.org).

Upcoming Concerts at Fourth Church

We hope you will join us for future concerts, whether in person or online, where concerts are, unless otherwise noted, livestreamed—and also available for viewing later—at www.fourthchurch.org and **YouTube** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). A complete schedule of upcoming concerts at Fourth Church is available at www.fourthchurch.org/concerts

Friday, February 4 12:10 p.m. • Elise Blatchford, flute, and Maria Lyapkova, piano
Cosponsored by Musicians Club of Women

Friday, February 4 7:30 p.m. • “Let There Be Light,” a concert featuring the Mark Lomax Quartet
Freewill offering at the door

Friday, February 11 12:10 p.m. • Michael Rees, organ

Friday, February 18 12:10 p.m. • Mio Nakamura, piano



Did you know that you can make gifts to Fourth Church music using Venmo? Scan the QR code or open the Venmo app and, after tapping the Pay button, search for Fourth Church (@Fourth-Church). Enter a gift amount, write a quick “music” designation note, and tap Pay!

Our ability to offer high quality music programming for the community and its visitors depends on your financial support. Please consider making a cash or check donation at the exit in the offering plates or by using Venmo or giving online at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online; **we also invite you to become a Friend of Music at Fourth.** Information can be found at www.fourthchurch.org/musicfriends



John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Chris Norton, Music Coordinator
Michael Rees, Organ Scholar
Bryan Johnson, Gospel Choir Director
Katy Sinclair, Children’s Music Director
Briana Belding-Peck, Handbell Director