



A recital by organist
John W. W. Sherer
commemorating the Fifth Anniversary of
the Dedication of the Andrew Pipe Organ
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November 20, 2020 • 7:30 p.m.
Fourth Presbyterian Church



Celebrating Chicago Composers

Voluntary in A Major

Clarence Eddy (1851–1937)

Suite

Flourish – Melody – Scherzo

Eric DeLamarter (1880–1953)

Gigue on the Tuba Stop

Donald Stuart Wright (1940–2015)

Prelude on a Melody by Sowerby

Morgan Simmons (b. 1929)

Three Hymn Preludes

God of Grace *by Paul Manz (1919–2009)*

Thy Holy Wings *by Richard Webster (b. 1952)*

Joy of the Redeemed *by Clarence Dickinson (1873–1969)*

Carillon

Leo Sowerby (1895–1968)

Fanfare

Richard Proulx (1937–2010)

In Quiet Mood

Florence B. Price (1887–1953)

National City Fanfare

Aaron David Miller (b. 1972)

Tonight's concert is underwritten by a generous gift from

David Berning

About the Organist

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 selected as one of fifty prominent Chicagoans living with passion and purpose and was featured in the book *Bright Lights of the Second City*.

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.

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.

About the Organ

The Edie and Ed Andrew Pipe Organ is the culmination of a project launched in 2012 with a generous matching grant from the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust and made possible by the support of members and friends.

Named in recognition of Edie and Ed Andrew's longtime support of Fourth Presbyterian Church music programs—including their significant gift to the organ project—the instrument was built by Quimby Pipe Organs of Warrensburg, Missouri.

The instrument—with its 142 ranks and 8,343 pipes—is conceived of as an American symphonic organ, with English Romantic leanings, and is especially notable for the individually beautiful and characteristic tone colors, which, while widely diverse, nevertheless blend together seamlessly to create a wide range of ensembles.

In addition to a robust Pedal division complete with a full-length 32' Contra Trombone, there are seven Manual divisions organized as follows: Great, Swell, Choir, Orchestral, Fanfare, Positiv, and Antiphonal; these are playable from a five-manual and pedal console. The instrument makes no pretense of adherence to any one tradition or school of organ-building. Rather, it is a synthesis of many of the best traditions which continued in development until the middle twentieth-century.

On November 22, 2015, the Andrew Pipe Organ was used in Sunday worship for the first time and dedicated *Soli Deo Gloria*. This dedication of our music and worship life to God's glory—a commitment running throughout the long history in which this new organ has now taken its place—remains our sustaining melody.

*For much more on the Andrew Pipe Organ,
go to www.fourthchurch.org/music/organ*

Upcoming Concerts at Fourth Church

Friday, November 27 • 12:10 p.m. online at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms

John W. W. Sherer, Organ; Mio Nakamura, Piano

For a complete concert schedule, go to
www.fourthchurch.org/concerts

Our ability to offer high quality music programming for the community and its visitors depends on your financial support. Please consider making a donation at the exit today. We also invite you to become a **Friend of Music at Fourth**. Brochures are available at the exit, and information can be found at **www.fourthchurch.org/musicfriends** as well.



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

