



June 30, 2023  
12:10 p.m.  
Sanctuary

# Friday Noonday Concert

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John W. W. Sherer, organ

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Marche Héroïque . . . . . *A. Herbert Brewer (1865–1928)*

Prelude on “Iam sol recidit igneus” . . . . . *Bruce Simonds (1895–1989)*

A Trumpet Minuet . . . . . *Alfred Hollins (1865–1942)*

A Siciliano for a High Ceremony . . . . . *Herbert Howells (1892–1983)*

Sonata in the Style of Handel. . . . . *William Wolstenholme (1865–1931)*

Introduction – Largo

Allegro

Largo

Minuet

Vocalise . . . . . *Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)/arr. Patricia Bird*

Symphonie No. 3 in F-sharp Minor . . . . . *Louis Vierne (1870–1937)*

Adagio

Final

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Organist **John W. W. 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 organ recitals throughout the United States, Japan, and England, including several for regional and national organist conventions. Since 1996 Dr. Sherer has served as Organist and Director of Music for Fourth Church, which *USA Today* chose as one of the top ten churches in America to be “enthralled by heavenly music.”

Dr. Sherer manages an active concert series at the church with more than 100 events each year. He has led eleven music mission trips and choir tours in the United States, England, France, Cuba, Guatemala, Israel, and South Africa. Dr. Sherer, selected as one of fifty prominent Chicagoans living with passion and purpose, 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 6 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 and concerts each year and is on the faculty of Vandercook College of Music. In 2022 he was Service Organist for the Montreat Worship and Music Conference, a national gathering of Presbyterian church leaders.

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. Dr. Sherer received two bachelor’s 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 in organ performance from the Juilliard School.

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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](mailto:kbever@fourthchurch.org)).*

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## Upcoming Free Friday Noonday Concerts at Fourth Church

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**In July and August, the free Friday Noonday concerts are held outside in the Michigan Avenue courtyard!**

*The outdoor concerts are not livestreamed.*

*In the event of rain, these concerts move inside to the Sanctuary.*

**Friday, July 7** 12:10 p.m. • Elsie Carlisle, jazz pianist

**Friday, July 14** 12:10 p.m. • Andy Brown, guitar

**Friday, July 21** 12:10 p.m. • Elaine Dame, vocal jazz ensemble

**Friday, July 28** 12:10 p.m. • Libby York, vocal jazz

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**Friday, August 4** 12:10 p.m. • Peppermint Patties  
vocal jazz ensemble

**Friday, August 11** 12:10 p.m. • Beckie Menzie and Tom Michaels  
cabaret tunes

**Friday, August 18** 12:10 p.m. • Kathleen Morrison  
Gershwin tunes and piano

**Friday, August 25** 12:10 p.m. • Juan Pastor, guitar



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 or by using Venmo or giving online at [fourthchurch.org/give](http://fourthchurch.org/give); we also invite you to become a Friend of Music at Fourth. Information can be found at [www.fourthchurch.org/musicfriends](http://www.fourthchurch.org/musicfriends)

• **Inspirational music, created with love, transforming God's world** •



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