

Farewell Concert

June 21, 2024 • 7:00 p.m.

John W. W. Sherer, *organ*

Music Written by Organists of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

A Stately Processional *Eric DeLamarter (1880–1953)*

Suite *E. DeLamarter*

Flourish

Melody

Scherzo

Fanfare *Aaron David Miller (b. 1972)*

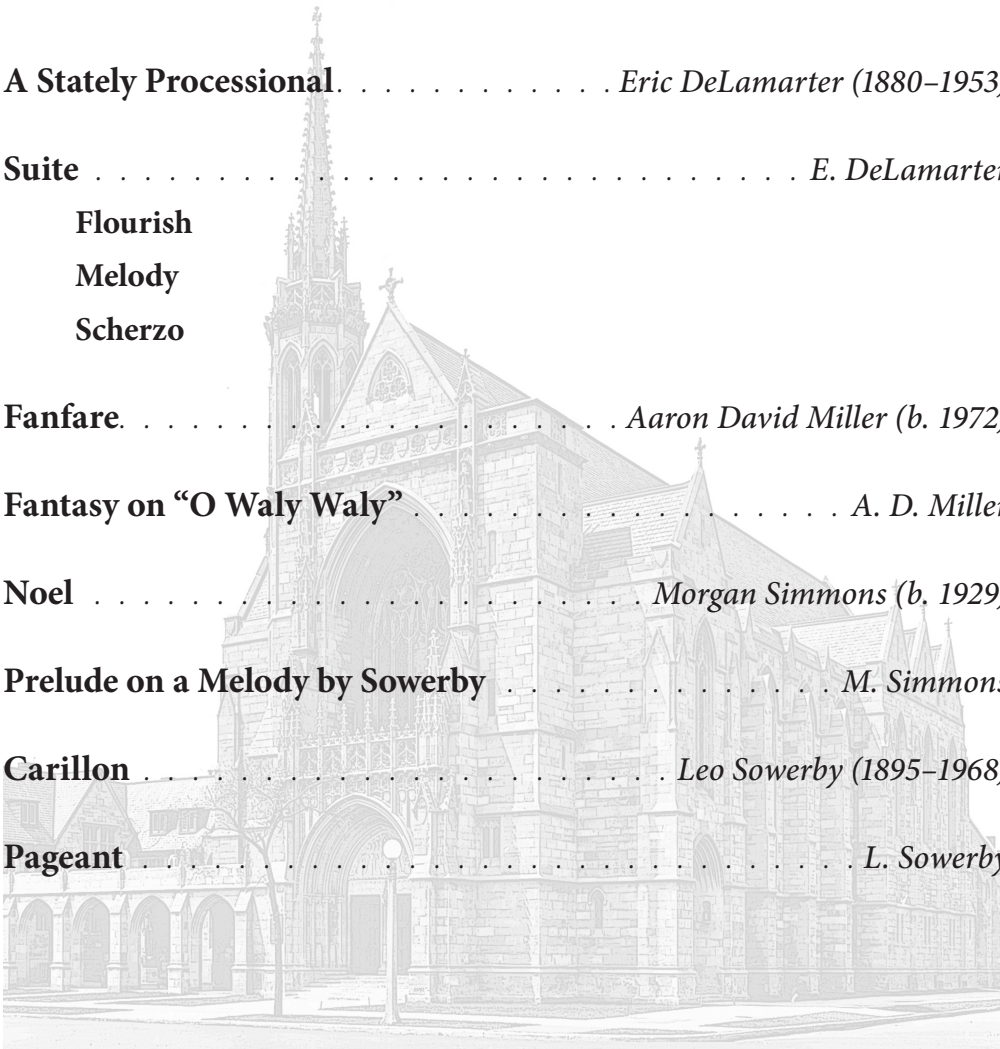
Fantasy on “O Waly Waly” *A. D. Miller*

Noel *Morgan Simmons (b. 1929)*

Prelude on a Melody by Sowerby *M. Simmons*

Carillon *Leo Sowerby (1895–1968)*

Pageant *L. Sowerby*



THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

John W. W. Sherer

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.” This June John is relocating to Rochester, New York, after twenty-eight years at Fourth Church. There his wife, Kara, will serve as Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester and John will be Organist and Director of Music at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

Dr. Sherer has managed an active concert series at the church with more than 100 events each year. He also has led eleven music mission trips and choir tours in the United States, England, France, Cuba, Guatemala, Israel, South Africa, and India. 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 Fourth Church, Dr. Sherer has served as University Organist at North Park University in Chicago and as a member of 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 now Bishop Elect of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, 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.

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 that 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.

—*John W. W. Sherer*

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

Celebrating the Music Ministry of John Sherer



Sunday, June 23

John's last Sunday at Fourth Church

Anyone who would like to sing in the choir for the 10:00 a.m. service is invited to do so; we'll rehearse at 8:45 a.m. that day. A festive reception will follow worship.



Memory Book

As an expression of gratitude for John Sherer and his ministry among us, we invite you to share your well-wishes, notes, photos, and thank-yous with John through our online memory book at **bit.ly/sherermemories**

Gifts in Honor of John

As a further expression of gratitude, we also invite you to make a gift in honor of John's twenty-eight years of dedicated leadership of music ministry at Fourth Church. Gifts given in honor of John will support key areas of this ministry of beauty, including the Director of Music and Organ Scholar positions as well as the Morning Choir.

Gifts can be made online at **bit.ly/jwwshonorgift**



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; we also invite you to become a Friend of Music at Fourth. Information can be found at 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 Department Manager
Michael Rees, Organ Scholar
Beena David, Sunday Afternoon Worship Music Coordinator
Cicely Perry, Director, Voices of Light
Katy Sinclair, Children's Music Director
Briana Belding-Peck, Handbell Director