

A concert by organist and composer  
**Aaron David Miller**  
commemorating the Sixth Anniversary of  
the Dedication of the Andrew Pipe Organ  
and the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of  
John W. W. Sherer's Ministry as Organist  
and Director of Music at Fourth Church.



November 19, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.  
Fourth Presbyterian Church



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I.   
C A L L I N G

II.   
H O L Y, H O L Y, H O L Y

III.   
F L O W I N G W A T E R

IV.   
L I G H T

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Improvisation

Overture from *Die Zauberflöte*, K. 620. . . . . *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)*

Fantasy and Fugue in G Minor, BWV 542. . . . . *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

Sonata VI in D Minor . . . . . *Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)*

I. Chorale and Variations

II. Fuga

III. Andante

Sonata for a Sacred Space . . . . . *Aaron David Miller (b. 1972)*

*(See facing page)*

I. Tympanum – “Calling”

II. Arches – “Holy, Holy, Holy”

III. Fountain – “Flowing Water”

IV. “A Light in the City”

THIS SONATA WAS COMMISSIONED BY FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN CELEBRATION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN W. W. SHERER’S  
MINISTRY AS ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR OF MUSIC.

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## Celebrating John W. W. Sherer's Twenty-Five Years as Organist and Director of Music

**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 recitals throughout the United States, Japan, and England, including several for regional and national organist conventions.

Appointed in 1996 as Organist and Director of Music for Fourth Church, 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, Guatemala, 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 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.

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## About the Organist

**Aaron David Miller** is a renowned organ improviser and composer, having won numerous international awards and given concerts across the country. Dr. Miller was recently the winner of the 2021 Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee Annual Composition Competition. He was also recipient of the 2019 Weiger Lepke-Sims Family Sacred Music Award offered by the American Harp Society.



Dr. Miller’s orchestra works have been performed by such ensembles as the Seattle Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Zurich Symphony, and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Recent composition commissions include works for Yale University, University of California Santa Barbara, the Taylor Organ Competition, and the Bach Chamber Players of St. Paul, Minnesota. His organ, choral, and orchestra compositions are published by Augsburg Fortress, Paraclete Publishing, and Oxford University Press. Dr. Miller was a featured artist at the National AGO convention held in Houston, Texas, of 2016. He is currently Music Director at House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, and also a Forensic Musicologist for Donato Music, Scarsdale, New York.

Dr. Miller earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music, where he studied organ performance with David Craighead, Russell Saunders, David Higgs, and Michael Farris and composition with Samuel Adler, Joseph Schwantner, and Christopher Rouse. His graduate studies were taken at the Manhattan School of Music, where he completed his Master and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees studying composition and organ performance with McNeil Robinson. Dr. Miller currently lives in Bloomington, Minnesota, with his son, Zachary.

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## 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.

*For much more on the Andrew Pipe Organ,  
go to [www.fourthchurch.org/music/organ](http://www.fourthchurch.org/music/organ)*

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## Upcoming Concerts at Fourth Church

Friday, November 26 • 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary and livestreamed  
John Sherer, organ  
Friday Noonday concert | Free admission

Friday, December 3 • 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary and livestreamed  
Estrella Piano Duo (Elena Doubovitskaya and Svetlana Belsky)  
*cosponsored by Musicians Club of Women*  
Friday Noonday concert | Free admission

Saturday, December 4 • 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
Candlelight Carols with the St. Charles Singers  
*Tickets available at [stcharlessingers.com](http://stcharlessingers.com)*

Tuesday, December 7 and Wednesday, December 8 • 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
A Chanticleer Christmas  
*Tickets available at [cso.org](http://cso.org)*

Friday, December 10 • 8:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel  
Holidays *a cappella* from Chicago *a cappella*  
*Tickets available at [chicagoacappella.org](http://chicagoacappella.org)*

*For a complete concert schedule, go to  
[www.fourthchurch.org/concerts](http://www.fourthchurch.org/concerts)*

ALSO OF INTEREST:

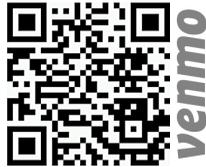
Sunday, December 12 • 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and livestreamed  
Service of Advent Lessons and Carols  
*A beloved annual tradition at Fourth Church*

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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](http://www.fourthchurch.org/musicfriends) as well.

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