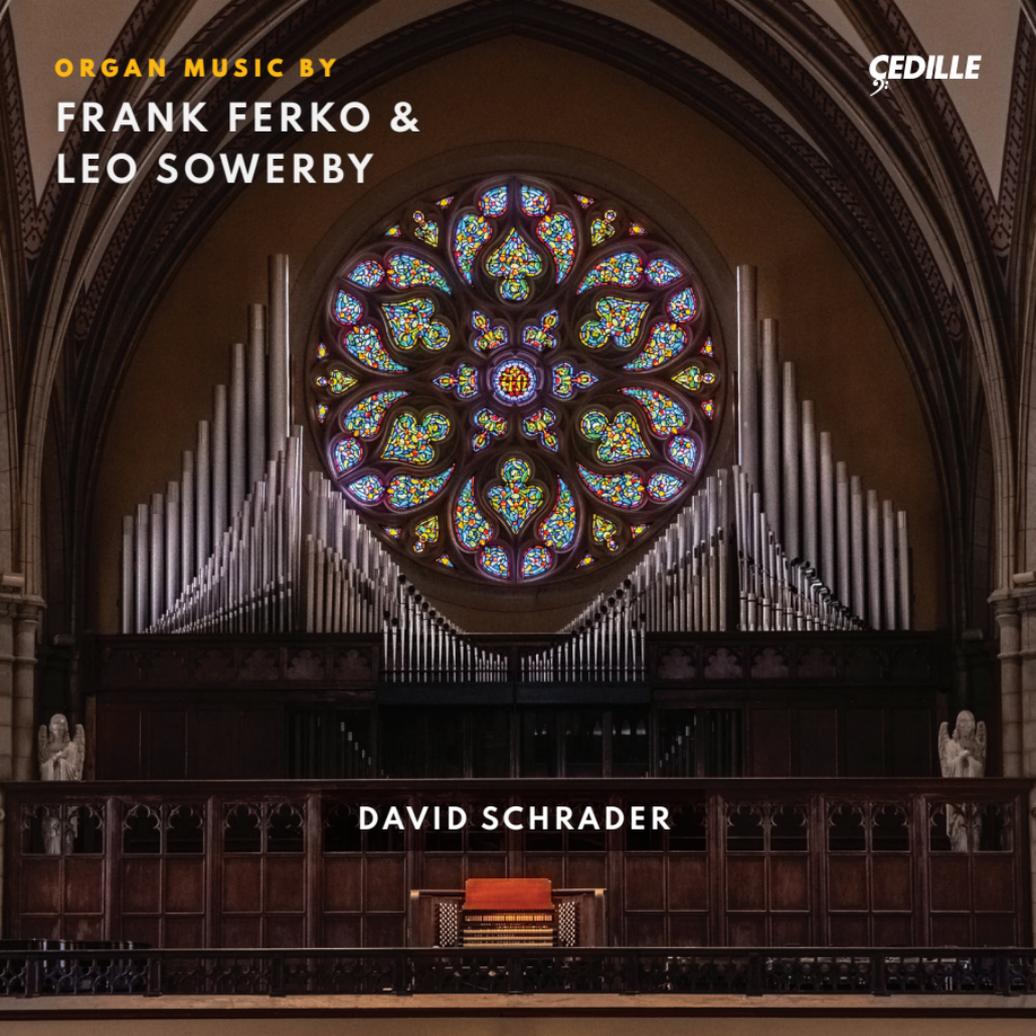


ORGAN MUSIC BY

FRANK FERKO &
LEO SOWERBY

CEVILLE

DAVID SCHRADER



DISC 1

FRANK FERKO

Music for Elizabeth Chapel (20:37)

- 1 I. Leoni (Chorale Variations) (6:34)
- 2 II. St. Elizabeth (Crusader's Hymn) (7:28)
- 3 III. St. Anne (Toccata and Fugue) (6:29)
- 4 Variations on "Veni Creator Spiritus" (11:11)
- 5 Angels — Chaconne for Organ (8:43)

Symphonie brève (12:35)

- 6 I. Andante (3:17)
- 7 II. Very fast, lightly (6:06)
- 8 III. Chorale (3:08)
- 9 Missa O Ecclesia: Communion (2:32)

10 Variations on a Hungarian Folk Tune (3:27)

11 Tired Old Nun (6:09)

Mass for Dedication (13:26)

- 12 I. Entrance (2:45)
- 13 II. Offertory (1:33)
- 14 III. Consecration (1:53)
- 15 IV. Communion (3:11)
- 16 V. Finale (3:51)

All World Premiere Recordings

TT: (79:25)

DISC 2

LEO SOWERBY

1 Comes Autumn Time H 124a (6:39)

2 Pageant H 205 (12:21)

3 Toccata H 259 (7:59)

4 from Suite for Organ H 222
IV. March (9:31)

Symphony in G major H 206 (42:05)

- 5 I. Very broadly (20:20)
- 6 II. Fast and sinister (8:33)
- 7 III. Passacaglia (13:02)

TT: (79:04)

Available as additional tracks in online versions of the album

Two Sketches* H 393 (8:21)

1. Nostalgic (4:26)
2. Fancy-Free (3:53)

*World Premiere Recording

DAVID SCHRADER

My works presented on this recording were all composed, first performed, and published between 1987 and 2005. Most of the pieces are in the form of theme and variations, but other forms and genres are represented as well. In a few cases the pieces were commissioned specifically for dedication recitals of new or renovated instruments, and thus, they were designed to showcase the specific tonal colors of the organs for which they were written.

The three mechanical-action organs at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minnesota provided a variety of organ design and tonal palette that is well suited for these pieces, so I am delighted that these works were recorded on those instruments.

Music for Elizabeth Chapel

Commissioned by Mark and Audrey Schindler, *Music for Elizabeth Chapel* was written for the 2002 dedication concert of the 19-rank Jaekel organ, Opus 41 (2001) in Elizabeth Chapel at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church. The work is in three movements, each based on a different hymn melody, each selected by the Schindlers.

- I. Leoni: Chorale Variations (chorale with 6 variations)
- II. St. Elizabeth (Crusader's Hymn): Chorale Variations (chorale with 6 variations)
- III. St. Anne: Toccata and Fugue



Because the entire work was composed for a small organ, specifically, the Jaeckel instrument in Elizabeth Chapel, much of it makes use of various types of counterpoint, both imitative and non-imitative. The individual variations have been conceived in different styles, including the 18th century musette and chorale prelude, a contrary motion canon in trio style, a waltz, and even one variation played entirely by the feet on the organ pedals. The Toccata on “St. Anne” is written in a minimalist style with the hymn tune appearing in the pedals on a high pitched (4’) solo stop; the fugue incorporates an eclectic mix of styles to continue the idea of “variation.”

Variations on “Veni Creator Spiritus”

The basis of this work is the plainsong hymn, *Veni Creator Spiritus*, attributed to Rabanus Maurus Magentius, a ninth-century Frankish Benedictine monk, theologian, author, and poet. The work was commissioned by St. Chrysostom’s Episcopal Church in Chicago for one of the dedicatory concerts for its 33-rank C.B. Fisk organ in 2005. Designed to showcase the organ’s variety of tonal colors, the individual variations were created to feature specific stops and stop combinations available on that instrument. As with all but one piece

on the rest of the album, it is played here on C.B. Fisk’s Opus 78, installed in 1979.

Musically, the variations employ harmonies derived from standard major and minor scales as well as the octatonic scale, and they range in texture from small clusters (theme) to sparse octaves (variation III), two-voice “commentaries” (variations I and V), melody and accompaniment in three totally different styles (variations VI, VII, and VIII), accompanied canon at the interval of the fourth (variation IV), and a toccata with full organ (variation IX). Variation III was composed in two versions: manuals only (no pedals), and manuals with pedals. The latter version, with pedals, is the version presented on this recording.

Angels: Chaconne for Organ

Although the traditional chaconne form is a set of variations performed over a repeating musical pattern in the bass line (also called a “ground” bass), this chaconne is based on a repeating harmonic pattern played on one of the organ manuals. The pattern is a harmonization of the first phrase of the chant, *O aeterna Deus*, composed in the 12th century by Hildegard von Bingen. Each variation is derived from the interval of the perfect octave or the perfect fifth to depict

the perfection of the angels themselves. The perfect intervals manifest themselves in various ways, including expansions of the original harmonies in the fifth and sixth variations, and the rhythmic variation extends to a full-blown tango (sixth variation) to express the exuberant joy of the angels praising Almighty God.

Angels was commissioned for the dedication of the 25-rank Hellmuth Wolff organ at St. Giles Episcopal Church in Northbrook, Illinois and received its premiere on November 13, 1994.

Symphonie brève

This short symphonic work was composed for a concert performed by the composer at the Church of St. Paul and the Redeemer in Chicago on October 4, 1987.

The first movement is based on the principle of the ground bass played on the pedals. Each repetition of the bass line is a slight variation of the original, however: as the music progresses, the bass line becomes shorter on each repetition. A contrasting central section continues the basic eighth-note rhythmic motion established in the first section but abandons the bass line to provide a harmonic commentary played on the

manuals. The ground bass returns as a brief recapitulation of the first section, this time with a more aggressive shrinking process. The second movement, written in a very quiet minimalist style, is based on the plain-song “Alleluia” from the Mass for the Day of St. Francis, played on a solo 4’ stop. This movement was originally improvised at the 1987 concert and later transcribed for the publication of the score. A massive chorale, organized in A-B-A form and based on motives from the first movement, concludes the work.

David Schrader took a particular interest in this work shortly after it was composed, and he has performed it, either in whole or in part, on many occasions. With much gratitude, I dedicated *Symphonie brève* to David.

Missa O Ecclesia: Communion

In 1995, my publisher, Robert Schunemann, requested a short organ piece for publication, and the result was “Communion.” It was my intention to incorporate this movement into a complete organ mass, but as it turned out, I never wrote the remaining movements. Based on the opening of the chant, *O Ecclesia* by Hildegard von Bingen, the piece is a very

quiet meditation featuring some of the milder tonal colors of the organ. It is, thus, quite suitable for performance on small instruments.

Variations on a Hungarian Folk Tune

Composed in 1994, this work consists of a theme and six variations. It was originally conceived as a teaching piece to be played on a small organ, but it has often been performed as a concert work. The various treatments of the theme include *bicinium* (theme and variation IV), two-voice canon (variation II), inversion (variation III), and a tango (variation VI). As in *Music for Elizabeth Chapel*, also written for a small organ, this work presents a variety of textures, each requiring distinctive tonal colors of the organ. This is the one piece on the album performed on the church's 13-rank, two-manual, 1878 Joseph Merklin organ, restored by C.B. Fisk and installed in 1987.

Tired Old Nun

Tired Old Nun dates from 1996 and was written as a birthday gift for Chicago organist Richard Sobak. As the title suggests, the work is a novelty piece, and although it is based on the plainsong "Alleluia" from the Mass for the Day of St. Richardis, it is not intended for liturgical use.

Consisting of a theme and six variations, the entire work is intended to be played on the organ pedals, that is, performed only with the organist's feet. The various tonal colors required come not only from the pedal division of the organ but also from the coupling of manual stops to the pedals. The musical styles represented in the variations include a waltz (variation II), slow blues (variation V), and boogie (variation VI).

Mass for Dedication

This five-movement work was commissioned for the 2002 dedication of the renovated 57-rank Howell organ at Christ Church in Winnetka, Illinois. It is organized in the standard organ mass format: (1) Entrance – (2) Offertory – (3) Consecration – (4) Communion – (5) Finale. Thematically, the work is based on three fragments of the 12th century chant *O orzchis Ecclesia* by Hildegard von Bingen, and these fragments can be heard in their original and varied forms throughout the piece. Since the chant was originally written to be sung at a time of dedication, it was appropriate to use this particular chant as the basis of this work.

FRANK FERKO



Photo by William Beermann

Frank Ferko's music has been heard in live performances and radio broadcasts around the world. Recognized by critics as a master of text setting and composing for a cappella vocal ensembles, Mr. Ferko is particularly sought after as a composer of new vocal and choral music. His works have been commissioned and performed by some of the most highly regarded choral ensembles, organists, and vocal soloists of our time.

Music festivals that have presented Frank's music include Holland Festival Oude Muziek, Jusq'aux oreilles (Montreal), Norfolk Music Festival, and Outside the Box (Southern Illinois University). On two occasions the American Guild of Organists commissioned Mr. Ferko to create new works for AGO national conventions (2006 and 2018), and his choral music has been presented at national conventions of the American Choral Directors

Association and Chorus America. Many performances of his works, including world premieres, have taken place in such noteworthy venues as Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Notre Dame de Paris, St. Martin's Cathedral (Utrecht), and Rachmaninov Hall (Moscow). His works are published exclusively by E.C. Schirmer Music Company, and they have been recorded on more than 30 compact disc releases on such labels as Arsis, Cedille, Gasparo, Herald, Hyperion, Loft, Pro Organo, and Raven.

Mr. Ferko's compositions based on his research on the life, music, and writings of the 12th century abbess, Hildegard von Bingen, have secured an international audience. In the summer of 1998 Mr. Ferko was invited to perform his largest organ work, *The Hildegard Organ Cycle*, at the Holland Festival Oude Muziek in Utrecht, a performance that marked the European premiere of the work. Similarly, Mr. Ferko's *Hildegard Motets* have been performed by professional and college choirs across the U.S. and abroad, and his articles on the music of Hildegard and her influence on present-day composers have appeared in the British music journal, *Choir & Organ*.

From 2001 to 2003 Mr. Ferko held the position of Composer-in-Residence with the Dale Warland Singers, long regarded as one of America's finest choral ensembles. He has also been the recipient of awards and/or grants from the American Composers Forum, American Music Center, ASCAP, American Guild of Organists, Jerome Foundation, Alice M. Ditson Fund, Meet the Composer, Arts International, and the Illinois Arts Council. Formerly a long-time resident of Chicago, Mr. Ferko currently spends much of his time in Berkeley, New York, and Amsterdam.

ORGAN WORKS BY LEO SOWERBY Notes by Francis Crociata



Photo courtesy of the Leo Sowerby Foundation

“Dr. Sowerby, is it true that you’ve written a piece you can’t play yourself?”

The name of the American Conservatory student whose question challenged the Chicago music school's most famous graduate and faculty member is now long forgotten, as is whether the piece in question was the pedal *tour de force*,

Pageant, or the treacherous middle movement, “Fast and sinister,” from the Symphony in G major. But either work neatly fits the legend and the punchline, no doubt delivered with his trademark mock-serious huffy deadpan delivery as retold by generations of his students:

“I don’t know if I can or not... and I don’t intend to find out!”

Pageant and the Organ Symphony date from the very heart of Leo Sowerby's "Golden Age." In the early 1930s, his astonishingly inventive lyric gift, technical mastery of the elements of musical form, and virtuoso keyboard performance led him to be, for several years, the most frequently performed American composer of symphonic music and, for the remainder of his life, the most frequently performed American composer of choral and organ music. The Organ Symphony and *Pageant* conquered the concert organ world at almost exactly the same moment that a performance of his tone poem, *Prairie*, resulted in a feature profile in *Time Magazine*.

Sowerby once told his former student, Robert Rayfield, that he divided his 92 organ compositions into three periods, and David Schrader has selected works from all three: "Orchestral" (1913–1926), in which he thought of the organ in orchestral terms; "Pure Organ" (1927–1937), in which he wrote more idiomatically, placing less emphasis on tone colors; and "Baroque Response" (1937–1968), during which his writing became more linear.

Four of the five works that Mr. Schrader selected for this CD would surely number among Sowerby's dozen or so "greatest hits." Indeed, the Organ Symphony has received more than a dozen commercial

recordings on CD, LP, and, beginning with E. Power Biggs' landmark 1942 Victor recording on 78 RPM shellac discs. I am especially grateful that Mr. Schrader includes the rarely performed March from Suite for Organ and, as digital tracks separate from the physical album, the even more rarely performed late work, *Two Sketches*, one of which ("Nostalgic") extends the Sowerby style into the realm of serial techniques, at least for about four minutes.

Comes Autumn Time H 124a (1916)

Eric DeLamarter (1880–1953) is an obscure figure in 20th-century American music, even in Chicago, which was home for much of his life. He was a prolific and much-performed composer, conductor, church musician, and critic. Yet if he is remembered at all today, it is mainly as a footnote to the anti-German current that swept several prominent German maestros, including Chicago's Frederick Stock, off their podiums during World War I, leaving DeLamarter, briefly, chief conductor of the Chicago Symphony. He is also remembered by Sowerby fans for announcing in the *Chicago Tribune* in 1916 that he would be playing the world premiere of "From the Southland" by Leo Sowerby on the following Thursday at Fourth Presbyterian Church.

DeLamarter pulled the title, and indeed the piece, out of thin air, as he had neglected to mention the "commission" to his young assistant. Inspired by verses of Canadian poet Bliss Carmen (1861–1929), Sowerby completed in a single afternoon the brilliant program overture that numbers among dozen or so of his 550 compositions for which he is best known today, both as a staple of the organ recital repertory (Marcel Dupré played its Paris premiere) and in its orchestration, also premiered by DeLamarter. The latter was also conducted by Stokowski, Koussevitzky, Walter, Reiner, Hanson, Rostropovich, Solti and, in his magisterial Cedille Records survey of Sowerby orchestral works, the late Paul Freeman.

In his 1933 *The Diapason* survey of Sowerby's organ works, Albert Riemschneider (1878–1950) drew a connection between the interplay of the overture's two main themes and the autumnal season the composer portrays: "...one can class this composition as a sonata, which, in the recapitulation, presents the second subject first in order.... After presentation of the first theme there follows a coda... a brilliant and dissonant ascending passage as if to suggest the closing in a burst of autumnal glory."

Pageant H 205 (1931)

One doesn't expect flamboyant technical display to be the most prominent feature of a Sowerby organ work, although formidable technical challenges abound throughout Sowerby's organ repertory. *Pageant* is the exception to the rule, intentionally so, for it was commissioned by the young firebrand virtuoso Fernando Germani (1906–1998), famous for his service as first organist at the Vatican from 1948 to 1959, during the papacy of Pius XII. During his Rome Prize fellowship (1921–1924), Sowerby met Germani, then organist of Rome's Augusteo orchestra. In 1926, Germani played his first American tour, the centerpiece of which was Sowerby's *Mediaeval Poem* for Organ and Orchestra, including performances in New York and Philadelphia conducted by the composer. He asked Sowerby to compose a work to spotlight his much admired pedal technique and, upon receiving *Pageant*, telegraphed one of music history's great one-liners: "Now write me something *really* difficult!"

The piece is in the form of an introduction and variations on a martial theme, which one British critic called "the epitome of Yankee jingoism." Riemschneider described the opening as "a clarion call to battle and



the fight his on... As a means for maintaining both their mental and physical properties at their best condition of fitness this selection is highly recommended to those organists who are capable of mastering its difficulties. It was written as a challenge to the fleet-footed young Italian organist, and a challenge it will remain for any fleet-footed organist of the virtuoso type." Riemschneider was probably thinking of Virgil Fox, who attended the American Conservatory and was among the first to ride *Pageant* to his early recital success. Ever since, it has become a rite of passage for young organists (much as the Rachmaninoff's

Third Concerto has been for young pianists) and, in the age of cameras and projection screens, a visual treat for their audiences.

Toccata H 259 (1941)

In the pre-war year of 1941, Sowerby produced toccatas for piano and organ, both on requests from former students. The piano work was commissioned for the Mercury Music series of publications by his composition student, Gail Kubik (who, like Sowerby, would go on to win the Pulitzer Prize). The Toccata in C for organ was chosen by conductor William Strickland to inaugurate a new H.W. Gray series of contemporary organ works that would

eventually include works by, among others, Piston, Krenek, Sessions, Schonberg, Milhaud, and Copland.

Three-part in structure, the Toccata proceeds from a graceful, expansive arching modal theme over an intricate accompanying figure. Gradually, that accompaniment recedes preparing for the quieter, though no less intricate, middle section in which the main theme is broken into bits and pieces that dialog with one another until Sowerby gracefully draws them together for a final, grand triumphant statement in the pedals.

Sowerby obviously loved and took satisfaction in his Toccata, including it on every program he played for the rest of his years as a recitalist. This work has been a fixture in the repertoires of countless American organists. Catharine Crozier (1914–2003) recorded the Toccata three times; it was also championed and recorded twice by Sowerby's friend and colleague, the composer-organist of England's York Minster Cathedral, Francis Jackson (b. 1917).

Suite for Organ H 222 (1934) **IV. March**

Two of Sowerby's most frequently performed works are movements from the Suite for Organ, which he composed for Oxford University Press to follow on the great success Oxford enjoyed with the Symphony in G. The Suite's March is not one of those perennial favorites. Those are the two middle movements, Air with Variations and Fantasy for Flute Stops. The opening Chorale and Fugue is, like the March, rarely encountered on recital programs.

Oxford published the four movements separately before gathering them in a single volume. The March may owe its obscurity to its being overshadowed by the two very popular movements that precede it in the Suite and also by confusion with another march published a decade before, *A Joyous March* (H 148). The Suite's March couldn't be more distinct from that earlier, straightforward, Grainger-like outpouring of post-war optimism. Like the Toccata, it has an overall ternary structure, built around a rather urbane theme, by turns raucous, then insinuatingly sly, quietly melancholic, caustic, sarcastic, and finally boldly triumphant. Depending on the organist's approach, it can strut or swing or meander. The composer told one of his

students it was inspired by a painting by Rainey Bennett, as was the Suite's Fantasy for Flute Stops. To a contemporary friend and colleague, Sowerby said the March reflected a variety of ceremonial marches and processions he'd experienced as a bandmaster and Anglican organist-choir-master. That colleague, the organist-composer M. Searle Wright (1918–2004), also mentioned the composer's request that he play the entire Suite, something he'd never had the opportunity to hear in a recital program before. Wright complied with this request by performing the full Suite on three separate American Guild of Organists recitals.

Symphony in G major H 206 (1930–1931)

- I. **Very broadly**
- II. **Fast and sinister**
- III. **Passacaglia**

This writer has studied Sowerby's music and life for over 50 years and long ago surrendered objectivity in appraising the composer's place, and even the relative strengths of his immense 550-work oeuvre. I do feel safe, however, in suggesting that he left two incontestable masterpieces that will live as long as music lives: the Lenten cantata *Forsaken of Man* and the Symphony in G for organ.

Sowerby's impetus for composing the Symphony in G was two-fold: one practical and one personal. From the practical standpoint, friendly professional acquaintances, including composer William Walton, gained Sowerby entry with the prestigious publisher Oxford University Press. Oxford wanted a new, large-scale composition to follow the success of the five-movement piano suite, *Florida*. From a personal standpoint, Sowerby wanted to write a major work for the organist he and the rest of the American organ community regarded as the one peer to the great French masters Vierne and Widor: Lynwood Farnam (1885–1930), founding chairman of the organ department at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

Sowerby began his Organ Symphony with the finale, its Passacaglia, and indeed the Passacaglia had several public performances before the entire work — particularly the 20-minute opening movement with its five successively more passionate/exultant climaxes — was completed. Right from the beginning, the Symphony's first movement was a challenge for organists and listeners alike, demanding attention to the complex unfolding of classical form in a emotion-laden romantic language that has as much in common with Mahler and

Bruckner as with Bach, Franck, and Vierne. The scherzo/rondo and the passacaglia are much more easily accessible on first hearing, especially to modern ears, but the first movement reveals more of its beauty and power with repeated hearings.

Of the first movement, the composer wrote to his greatest champion, the British organist E. Power Biggs (1906–1977) before Biggs' 1942 recording for RCA Victor:

The development is fairly long and complicated and concerns itself with material from both the first and second themes. A great climax is finally reached with the full organ... after which the recapitulation of the first theme is introduced (G major) considerably shortened. The second theme is now heard in G major (opening record side 4). The coda which concludes the movement is designed to unite the two principal themes... and to demonstrate that they are one theme, after all.

I don't know who originated it, but the famous quip about the "Fast and sinister" second movement is that it is "fast for the audience and sinister for the organist." I am grateful to Michael Barone, the estimable organ scholar and host of Public Radio's *PipeDreams*, for the inciteful

suggestion that the second movement's opening dissonant dialogue of chords is evocative of car horns on Chicago's Michigan Avenue at dusk — a sound that would have been very familiar to Sowerby, seated at his customary dinner table in the Cliff Dwellers Club atop Orchestra Hall. I'm fond of this rather tongue-in-cheek commentary from G.D. Cunningham, an English writer who performed the Symphony in 1938:

The second movement, marked "fast and sinister," is in 5-4 time, and is very original. After some preliminary bars the first subject is announced on the pedals. It is very lively and energetic, and indeed the whole movement, in its unceasing rhythmic vitality, is a complete contrast to the previous one. It is in Rondo form and at each return of the subject the composer adds some new feature of interest for the listener, and (alas!) some fresh trials for the performer.

The last movement is a fine Passacaglia, full of clashing harmonies and consecutive fourths, fifths and sevenths. The whole symphony is extremely difficult, and there are several passages of double-pedaling with the feet at opposite extremes of the pedalboard. (I may add that this sort of thing is

becoming so common that the anatomical risks which we organists run are too frightful to dwell upon!)

Sowerby wrote to Biggs:

The Symphony was composed in 1930 [Ed. — actually completed in 1931]; I don't know the date of the first performance. Since it was published by the Oxford University Press in London, it was probably first played in England.... It is dedicated to my friend, Lynnwood Farnam, who is certainly the greatest organist I ever knew; it so happened that the Symphony was published after his death, but I wanted the dedication to stand nevertheless.... I might say that my Symphony has no "program" or no extra-musical significance or intent. It is as much a piece of architecture in sound as any of the works of the masters of the Baroque period, though I do not pretend to make any further comparisons.

To the composer's remarks I add these concluding lines from Albert Riemschneider's study of the organ works:

The manner in which each new climax is begun, either by the addition of rhythmic interest or by the application of structural forms, shows a master hand and adds much to the worth of

the architectural side of the work. With it all Mr. Sowerby does not for a moment lose sight of his spiritual values, which are always such a strong factor in his work. With all this in view the statement may be repeated that this passacaglia compares very favorably with any others with perhaps the exception of those by Brahms and Bach.

Available as additional tracks in online versions of the album.

Two Sketches H 393 (1963)

1. **Nostalgic**
2. **Fancy-Free**

World Premiere Recording

Among the works of Sowerby's last decade, there are ample examples that conform to the composer's description of his late period as his "Baroque Response" stage. There are also a few works that do not fit neatly into this classification, however — the best examples being these two little gems. Even knowledgeable Sowerby experts might guess they date from the late 1910s rather than the 1960s, even taking into account what was thought, until recently, to have been his first and only use of a tone-row.



The *Two Sketches* were the first solo organ works Sowerby composed after he retired from his Chicago posts at the American Conservatory and St. James Episcopal Cathedral to lead the College of Church Musicians at Washington National Cathedral. Health issues aside, these were happy years with honors and festivals galore, and a redoubling of his protean creative output: mostly choral works, but also his fifth orchestral symphony, second organ concerto, song cycle on Emily Dickinson

poems, and even two carillon pieces. Most of these were specific commissions but the Sketches, written in April 1963 during a rare stretch when he composed nothing else, are tied to no commission or occasion. So far as is known, they did not receive their first performance until one of his former students, Adrien Moran Reisner, played them at Temple Emanu-el in Dallas in March 1965.

The first of the Sketches, "Nostalgic," is akin to the sensuous, atmospheric organ tone paintings that began with Sowerby's

Madrigal of 1915. One critic dubbed such pieces “mid-western impressionism” — two works from the 1940s, *Arioso* and the “very slowly” movement of his *Sonatina*, being the best known examples. Around this time, one of Sowerby’s students was a serial composer, so Sowerby’s use of a tone-row in “*Nostalgic*,” though notable, may simply be a demonstration to his student that the “old master” could learn a new trick. Or not so new: University of Alabama doctoral candidate, Jackson Borges, recently discovered hiding in plain sight the ground base of a chaconne — the fourth movement of an unpublished organ sonata written between 1914 and 1917, 50 years before “*Nostalgic*” — constructed of 12 non-repeated tones. The quiet, somber mood of “*Nostalgic*” is the perfect set-up for a classic Sowerby mood-swing into “*Fancy-Free*.” (Sowerby described himself as “*The Jekyll and Hyde music*,” referencing the variety of styles and influences heard in his 550 works “for every medium except opera.”) In these *Two Sketches*, he takes us from the late-Mahler, early-Schonberg tinged world of early experimentation in “*Nostalgic*” to the merry-go-round of the 1920s in “*Fancy-Free*.” Gordon Reynolds called it “a Walton-esque romp” in *Musical Times* and its one interpretative

instruction, “*Chipper*,” could as easily describe the composer in the 1910s and 20s as enjoying his well-earned “second spring” in the 1960s. Lester Groom, a former Sowerby student, summed-up the *Sketches* and their composer in *The American Music Teacher*, “Dr. Sowerby in recent years has taken increased liberties with tonality, and his harmonic structures are bold and assertive... the romantic spirit endures, giving both the organist and the audience something to enjoy.”

The author of over 50 articles and papers on the lives and music of Leo Sowerby and Sergei Rachmaninoff, Francis Crociata has served as president of the Leo Sowerby Foundation since 1993.

DAVID SCHRADER

Equally at home in front of a harpsichord, organ, piano, or fortepiano, David Schrader is “truly an extraordinary musician... (who) brings not only the unfailing right technical approach to each of these different instruments, but always an imaginative, fascinating musicality to all of them” (Norman Pelligrini, WFMT Chicago).

A performer of wide ranging interests and accomplishments, Schrader has appeared with the Chicago, Dallas, San Francisco, and Colorado Symphonies, and appeared as a soloist at four national conventions of the American Guild of Organists (1984, 1994, 1998, and 2006). He has also performed at the prestigious Irving Gilmore Keyboard Festival (playing separate concerts on organ, harpsichord, and clavichord) and at the Ravinia Festival; Aspen Music Festival; Oulunsalo Soi Music Festival in Oulu, Finland; Michigan Mozartfest; Boston Early Music Festival; Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival; Connecticut Early Music Festival; Manitou Music Festival; and as soloist and conductor at the Woodstock (Illinois) Mozart Festival. A resident of Chicago, Schrader has performed with Music of the Baroque, the Newberry Consort, and Bach Week in Evanston. He has also appeared



Photo by William Burlingham

with The Chicago Chamber Musicians, Contempo (f.k.a. the Contemporary Chamber Players), the Chicago Baroque Ensemble, and The City Musick. He is a frequent guest on WFMT’s “Live From WFMT” series of broadcast in-studio performances and a co-founder of Trio Settecento (with Rachel Barton Pine and John Mark Rozendaal) and Baroque Band, for many years Chicago’s premier period-instrument orchestra. Schrader is on the faculty of Roosevelt University’s Chicago College of Performing Arts. For 35 years, he served as organist of Chicago’s Church of the Ascension. This is Schrader’s 26th recording for Cedille Records.

david schrader.com



Used for all Ferko works except *Music for Elizabeth Chapel* and *Variations on a Hungarian Folk Tune*

**C.B. Fisk Opus 78 (1979) House of Hope Presbyterian Church, Saint Paul, MN, Sanctuary Balcony
97 Ranks**

This large, mechanical action organ in the rear gallery of the Sanctuary is a landmark of late-20th-century organ building in America. The organ was designed and built by Charles Fisk and his firm for House of Hope, and Charles Fisk considered it his magnum opus.

Great

Prestant 16'
Octave 8'
Gambe 8'
Flûte harmonique 8'
Bourdon 8'
Octave 4'
Rohrflöte 4'
Cornet V
Mixture VIII-XII
Double Trumpet 16'
German Trumpet 8'
French Trumpet 8'
Orlos I-III (4')

Rückpositiv

Holzquintadehn 16'
Prestant 8'
Bourdon 8'
Octave 4'
Baarpijp 4'
Grosse Tierce 3 1/5'
Sharp V-VIII
Dulcian 16'
Trechterregal 8'
Cromorne 8

Swell

Stillgedackt 16'
Diapason 8'
Chimney Flute 8'
Viola da Gamba 8'
Voix Céleste
Italian Principal 4'
Contra Hautboy 16'
Trumpet 8'
Oboe 8'
Clarion 4'

Brustwerk

Gedackt 8'
Quintadena 4'
Waldflöte 2'
Quinta 1 1/3'
Cymbal III
Regal 8'
Schalmey 4'

Pedal

Contra Bourdon 32'
Prestant 16'
Subbass 16'
Octave 8'
Gedackt 8'
Super Octave 4'
Mixture V
Contra Bassoon 32'
Trombone 16'
Cornopean 8'
Shawm 4'

Used for Ferko: *Music for Elizabeth Chapel*

Jaeckel Opus 41 (2001, rev. 2005) House of Hope Elizabeth Chapel | 19 Ranks

Worship in the Elizabeth Chapel is enhanced by this two-manual organ. Specifically designed for the chapel, it produces, in Dan Jaeckel's words, "an intimate sound for an intimate space." The Jaeckel organ is also featured in an annual chapel organ recital series.

Hauptwerk

Principal 8'
Rohrflöte 8'
Octave 4'
Octave 2'
(from Mixture)

III Mixture 2'
Fagott 16'
Trompete 8'

Positiv

Salicional 8'
Gedackt 8'
Offenflöte 4'
I-II Cornet 2 2/3'
Gemshorn 2'

Quinte 1 1/3'
Oboe 8'
Vox Humana 8'

Pedal

Subaß 16'
Principal 8'
Trompete 8'

Used for Ferko: *Variations on a Hungarian Folk Tune*

Joseph Merklin (1878) / C.B. Fisk (1987) House of Hope Sanctuary Chapel | 13 Ranks

The Choir Organ in the Chancel was purchased from St. Laurent Church in Aubenas, France in 1983, restored by C.B. Fisk, Inc., and installed at House of Hope in 1987. It provides a rare opportunity for students and organists in this country to experience 19th century French organ building and to hear authentic French organ sounds.

Grand-Orgue

Bourdon 16'
Montre 8'
Bourdon 8'
Gambe 8'
Salicional 8'
4 Prestant

4 Flute octaviante
2 Fourniture II-IV
Trompette 8'
4 Clairon

Recit

Bourdon 8'
Gambe 8'
Voix celeste 8'
4 Flute octaviante
2 Flageolet
Basson-Hautbois 8'

Pedale

16 Soubasse
Montre 8'

Used for all Sowerby works

Wicks Opus 2918 (1951) / Howell Opus 94 (2003) St. Ita's Catholic Church, Chicago, IL | 68 Ranks

Built by Wicks Organ Company and finished in 1951, the instrument was one of the largest Wicks had constructed to that point, consisting of 68 ranks, 60 stops, and over 4200 pipes. A meticulous, three-year renovation completed in 2003 by H.A. Howell Pipe Organs, Inc. significantly enhanced the tonal resources of the organ.

Solo

Stentorphone 8'
Claribel Flute 8'
Viol d'Orchestre 8'
Viol Celeste 8'
Claribel Flute 4'
Trombone 16'
Tromba 8'
French Horn 8'
Orchestral Oboe 8'
Clarinet 8'
Clarion 4'
English Tuba 8'

Great

Bourdon 16'
Open Diapason 8'
Gemshorn 8'
Harmonic flute 8'
Stopped Diapason 8'
Chimney Flute 8'
Octave 4'
Octave Flute 4'
Twelfth 2 1/2'
Fifteenth 2'
III Mixture
IV Harmonics
Trumpet 8'
Clarion 4'

Swell

Contra Salicional 16'
Bourdon 16'
Open Diapason 8'
Salicional 8'
Voix Celeste 8'
Stopped Flute 8'
Octave 4'
Block Flute 4'
Nazard 2 1/2'
Hohl Flute 2'
Tierce 1 3/4'
Tierce 1 3/4'
IV Mixture
Bassoon 16'
Trompette 8'
Oboe 8'
Voix Iumaine 8'
Clairon 4'

Choir

Contra Dulciana 16'
Geigen Principal 8'
Gedackt 8'
Dulciana 8'
Unda Maris 8'
Octave 4'
Chimney Flute 4'
Nazard 2 1/2'
Flageolet 2'
Tierce 1 3/4'
Quint 1 1/2'
Septieme 1 1/2'
Siff flute 1'
Trompette 8'
Cromorne 8'
Clairon 4'
English Tuba 8'

Pedal

Bourdon 32'
Open Wood 16'
Open Diapason 16'
Contra Salicional (SW) 16'
Contra Dulciana (CI I) 16'
Sub Bass 16'
Lieblich Bourdon (SW) 16'
Octave 8'
Gemshorn (GT) 8'
Flute Bass 8'
Quint 5 1/3'
Choral Bass 4'
Tierce 3 1/5'
Septieme 2 2/7'
IV Mixture
Ophecleide 32'
Ophecleide 16'
Trombone (SO) 16'
Bassoon (SW) 16'
Ophecleide 8'
Tromba (SO) 8'
Clarion (SO) 4'
Cromorne (CH) 4'

Bombarde

Bourdon 32'
Open Diapason 16'
Octave 8'
Super Octave 4'
II Grave Mixture
IV Mixture
V Grand Cornet

Credits

Producer James Ginsburg

Engineer Bill Maylone

Recorded

Ferko August 24–26, 2019
House of Hope Presbyterian Church
St. Paul, Minnesota

Sowerby August 17–20, 2020
St. Ita's Catholic Church
Chicago, Illinois

Photos The organ at St. Ita's
Elliot Mandel Photography

Graphic Design Bark Design

Publishers

Ferko

*All works published by E.C. Schirmer
Music Company*

Music for Elizabeth Chapel ©2002

Variations on Veni Creator Spiritus ©2006

Angels ©1999

Symphonie brève ©1999

Missa O Ecclesia: Communion ©1999

Variations on a Hungarian Folk Tune ©2006

Tired Old Nun ©2019

Mass for Dedication ©2004

Sowerby

Pageant ©1931 Fred Bock Music Company

Tocatta ©1941 The H.W. Gray Co., Inc.

March from Suite for Organ ©1935 Oxford
University Press

Symphony in G major ©1932 Oxford
University Press

Two Sketches ©1964 Leo Sowerby Foundation

Cedille Records is a trademark of Cedille Chicago, NFP, a not-for-profit organization devoted to promoting the finest musicians and ensembles in the Chicago area. Cedille Chicago's activities are supported in part by contributions and grants from individuals, foundations, corporations, and government agencies including The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince, The Negaunee Foundation, Sage Foundation, Irving Harris Foundation, and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. This project is partially supported by a CityArts Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events.



CONTRIBUTIONS TO CEDILLE CHICAGO MAY BE
MADE AT CEDILLERECORDS.ORG OR 773-989-2515

CDR 90000 204 ©&© 2021 CEDILLE RECORDS
trademark of Cedille Chicago, NFP

1205 W. Balmoral Ave, Chicago IL 60640 USA
773.989.2515 tel · 773.989.2517 fax
www.cedillerecords.org

CEDILLE PRODUCERS CIRCLE

Honoring the generosity and loyalty of those individuals and foundations who have supported our recordings through their repeated, major annual gifts to Cedille Chicago



Anonymous	Barbara Julius and Marc Silberberg
Julie and Roger Baskes	Patricia Kenney and Gregory O'Leary
Beech Street Foundation	Christine and Bill Landuyt
The Steven C. Calicchio Foundation	Eva Lichtenberg and Arnold Tobin
Kristina Entner and Edward Malone	The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince
Marian and M. Carr Ferguson	Graci and Dennis McGillicuddy
Frances and Henry Fogel	Mesirow Financial
Sue and Paul Freehling	Lori and Steven Mesirow
Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation	The Negaunee Foundation
Jane Ginsburg and George Spera	Kathleen Peratis
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	Rachel Barton Pine and Gregory Pine
Susan and Sanford Greenberg	Pumpkin Foundation / Carol & Joe Reich
Barbara Greis and Howard Gottlieb	Jim Rogers
Irving Harris Foundation	Beverly and Bill Rosoff
Barbara Haws and William Josephson	Sage Foundation
Andrew and Irma Hilton Foundation	Claire and Edward Stiepleman
The Julian Family Foundation	Jia Zhao and Hongyi Chen