

Playing  
Time:  
**70:29**

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# LEO SOWERBY

(1895-1968)

## Works for Organ and Orchestra

David Craighead, David Mulbury, Organ  
The Fairfield Orchestra, John Welsh, Conductor

### Classic Concerto (1944) (18:03)

- 1 I. Merrily, with snap (4:18)
- 2 II. Very freely  
(Dreamily and Rhapsodically;  
with poignant expression) (7:38)
- 3 III. In broad style (6:14)  
David Mulbury, organist  
The Fairfield Orchestra/John Welsh, conductor
- 4 Medieval Poem (1926) (19:59)  
David Craighead, organist/Rita Lilly, soprano  
The Fairfield Orchestra, John Welsh, conductor
- 5 Pageant (1931) (10:45)  
David Craighead, organist  
(Recorded live, in concert, May 4, 1994)

### Festival Musick (1953) (21:14)

- 6 I. Fanfare (Boldly) (5:41)
- 7 II. Chorale (Quietly) (7:12)
- 8 III. Toccata on "AGO" (With Verve) (8:21)

Recorded at St. Bartholomew's Church, New York City, May 3-5, 1994. "Pageant", recorded live, in-concert at St. Bartholomew's Church, New York City, May 4, 1994.  
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Artists' Photograph (inside): Steven Speliotis  
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AMERICAN CLASSICS

### The Composer

The American composer and organist Leo Sowerby was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1895. An early exposure to the organ music of Cesar Franck prompted the young Sowerby to learn the organ and its literature. He was later to become one of the most distinguished and honored virtuosos of his generation. During his long and productive life, Leo Sowerby was the first recipient of the American Prix de Rome, a winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the first American to be made a fellow of the Royal School of Church Music. His music is colorful and freely draws upon both American and European Classical influences.

### The Works

*Festival Musick* and *Classic Concerto* were both written for the great E. Power Biggs. *Festival Musick*, composed in a single week in the summer of 1953 is a brash and brightly scored concert piece. The *Classic Concerto* presents Sowerby's lifelong occupation with traditional forms and contrapuntal structures. *Medieval Poem*, dating from 1926 has as its inspiration the ancient Liturgy of St. James and captures an atmosphere of divine mystery. *Pageant*, composed in 1931 at the request of Italian organ virtuoso Fernando Germani, is an ingenious set of variations, featuring some bravura passages for pedals alone.



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