

Fall 2016

In this issue...

Search Committee formed—Page 2

Poetic Tribute—Pg 3

Holiday Gala See Opposite



Dr. Carol Williams: Transition Ahead

THANKS to Point Loma Nazarene University, presenting sponsor for the April 23, 2016 TAKING THE TITLE concert.



Dr. Carol Williams has stepped down as Civic Organist for the City of San Diego, as of October 1.

Dr. Williams and her husband, Kerry Bell, are pulling up stakes and relocating to Virginia where Bell has accepted a job offer, and where they will be closer to family.

Dr. Williams shared the news with the audience at the finale concert of the 29th annual International Summer Organ Festival.

“Dr. Carol,” as she is known fondly to the Spreckels Organ Society family, will continue in her position as Artistic Director of the Society during the course of an international search for a new San Diego Civic Organist.

Her final Sunday-at-2 concert was on September 25. Photos of the date are available for viewing online at www.SpreckelsOrgan.org.

After the move, she is looking forward to performing more private concerts around the world, and spending more time on her own compositions. Even the month of September was a busy one, with a trip to South Korea for a concert performance.

Williams is working with the Society’s Program Committee to plan the 2017 International Summer Organ Festival, including a finale concert on August 28, 2017 when Williams and the CWB will return to the Spreckels Organ Pavilion for a tribute to The Doors, one of the most influential rock bands of the 1960s.

Williams has served as San Diego Civic Organist since 2001, when she became the first woman in the world to hold the title. Dr. Williams, the Spreckels Organ Society and the City’s Park and Recreation Department are collaborating to sustain the regular schedule of Sunday concerts while the search for a new Civic Organist goes on.



SPECIAL THANKS to
Hughes & Pizzuto
 for supporting the annual gala
 this holiday season.
WWW.HPLAWSD.COM



*Make Some Magic this Christmas—
 support the Spreckels Organ Society!*

Join us at the Admiral Kidd Club for the annual

Holiday Dinner Gala 6-9 pm Sunday, December 11, 2016

*...And see
 the fabulous
 Parade of
 Lights in San
 Diego Harbor!*



Thanks to Event Sponsors **HUGHES & PIZZUTO**

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Nov. 12 - South Bay "Organ Crawl" sponsored by American Guild of Organists—San Diego Chapter and the Society. Meet up at 8:30 a.m. at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 497 E St., Chula Vista 91910. Modest charge for lunch. Ends approximately 2 p.m.

Sunday, November 13 - Sunday Afternoon Concert featuring the San Diego Children’s Choir and the Children’s Choir of Berlin State Opera, 2-3 p.m. No admission charge.

Saturday, November 26 - Christmas on the Prado, 2 to 9 p.m. featuring annual launch of the Community Christmas Center.

December Nights—Friday Dec. 2 from 3-11 p.m. and Saturday Dec. 3 from Noon to 11 p.m.

Sunday, December 11—Holiday Fundraising Gala at the Admiral Kidd Club (details below).

Sunday, December 18 - Sunday Afternoon Concert featuring the annual Christmas Carol Community Sing-Along, 2-3 p.m. No admission charge.

Sunday, December 25 - Sunday Afternoon Concert, 2-3 p.m. No admission charge.

Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017 - New Years Day Concert, 2-3 p.m. No admission charge.

Enjoy an elegant dinner at the Navy’s premiere harbor-side venue while the [Parade of Lights](#) passes by! Live Music by the Matt Smith Neu Jazz Trio and a Silent Auction with unique items will add to the fun.

Don’t miss this special benefit fundraiser in support of the Spreckels Organ Society! Share holiday fellowship in support of extraordinary musical programming in the heart of Balboa Park.

Non-members are welcome! Your price includes membership through 2017.

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

Reservations required before nov. 25!

SOS Members: \$150

Non-Members: \$175

**The evening includes a presentation by
 Balboa Park Ranger Kim Duclou**

Dear Friends,

Some of you will already know the news of my stepping down as Civic Organist. I will remain the Artistic Director while we search for a new Civic Organist.

I have really enjoyed my time here in San Diego but now, I need to move on and do other musical endeavors. This does not mean I am retiring! I will be composing and continuing concertizing around the world.

Photos from my farewell concert as Civic Organist on September 25 are viewable at the Society's website.

Please continue to support the Spreckels Organ Society and, be sure, you haven't heard the last of me!

Visit me online at www.melcot.com

Best Wishes,

Dr. Carol



To All Members of the Spreckels Organ Society Family,

Yes, it is true! A few weeks ago, our wonderful Artistic Director, Carol Williams, handed me her letter of resignation. She and her husband Kerry Bell are moving to Virginia to be near family and for Kerry to accept a wonderful new job. We are going to miss both of them and all their many talents. Carol has resigned as Civic Organist as of October 1, but we at Spreckels will hold on to her for a while. She will remain Spreckels's Artistic Director on a month-to-month basis until her replacement is on board. She will continue to arrange for programming Sunday concerts as well as the Summer Organ Festival of 2017.

This is a personal loss for me as well as for many of you, but I am excited for Carol and Kerry as they start a new adventure in their lives. I encourage you to let Carol know how much you have appreciated her work for the past fifteen years by sending her a note of some kind. I am sure that she will treasure these.

Carol and I have formed a search committee that will comb the world to find the right person to fill this position. We will be looking for someone who is versatile in many types of music and who has the type of personality that will be engaging to our longtime supporters as well as converts to the organ world. Stay tuned! I know that we are embarking on an exciting year for Spreckels.

Be assured that our programming will go forward and that we will continue to work to merit your trust. As usual, I want to thank you for being members of The Spreckels Organ Society. We treasure you and your participation!

Warmly,

Jack Lasher
President



Search Committee Named

The Spreckels Organ Society Board of Trustees has named a Search Committee to work with the City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department to conduct an international search for the next Civic Organist for San Diego, who will also serve as Artistic Director for the Spreckels Organ Society.

The committee is chaired by Society President Jack Lasher and is comprised of: Diane Alexander, concert Soprano and teacher of voice; David Bennett, General Director of San Diego Opera; Joseph DeMers, Retired military bandmaster and retired teacher and Society Trustee; Dwight Gordon, Engineering Director at Qualcomm and former Society Trustee; Susan Lowery-Mendoza, the Park & Recreation Department's District Manager for Balboa Park; John Russell, Conductor of the San Diego Master Chorale; Dale Sorenson, Curator of the Spreckels Organ and Society Trustee; and Stan Wicks, Director of Music at First United Methodist Church of San Diego.

Executive Director Ross Porter is serving as staff support for the committee.

An Advisory Committee headed by Carol Williams will weigh in on the Search Committee choices. Serving on that committee are organists Ken Cowan, Paul Jacobs, and Robert Plimpton.

Dennis Fox named 2016 Volunteer of the Year

At the annual Membership Meeting on September 11, Dennis Fox was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for 2016. With good humor and many a tale of yesteryear in San Diego, Dennis has sold merchandise, acted as docent, stepped into the role of Mr. Fixit, and recently took over Webcasting chores for concerts. Thanks, Dennis, for helping to make every concert date just a little bit more fun!



StopTab: A Quarterly published by the SPRECKELS ORGAN SOCIETY

1549 El Prado, Suite 10, San Diego CA 92101-1661
(619) 702-8138 / SOSorgan@gmail.com / www.SpreckelsOrgan.org

Officers

President - Jack Lasher
Vice President - Dang Nguyen
Treasurer - Clifford McMillan
Secretary - Jean Samuels

Trustees

Kris Abels	Max Nanis
Mitch Beauchamp	David Nesvig
Andrea Card	Marion Persons
Joseph DeMers	Will Pierce
Len Filomeo	Lynn Reaser
Dennis Fox	Paulette Rodgers-Leahy
Richard Griswold	Paul Saunders
Charles Gunther	Spencer Scott
Pamela Hartwell	Barbara Truglio
Ralph Hughes	Tony Uribe
Jared Jacobsen	Tony Valencia
Sean Jones	Thomas Warschauer

Ex-Officio Trustees

Lyle Blackinton—Curator Emeritus
Ross Porter—Executive Director & StopTab Editor
Dale Sorenson—Curator
Dr. Carol Williams—Artistic Director



29th Annual International Summer Organ Festival—2016

Photos by Bob Lang and Mike Cox are souvenirs of a season dedicated to Ole and Vivian Evenson. **Above:** The percussion experts of the Marine Band San Diego share the spotlight with Robert Plimpton at the season's opening concert. **Below left:** On Movie Night, Tom Trenney accompanied the immortal Buster Keaton comedy *The General*. This photo captures the amazing live shot of an historic locomotive crashing into the creek below. **Below right:** Carol Williams and Aaron David Miller shared the stage with two organs for the finale concert. **Bottom:** The Pavilion lit up in patriotic colors for the July 4 concert by Dave Wickerham.



More great photos online at www.SpreckelsOrgan.org.

Civic Organist Emerita

In the center of the park stands a glorious two-armed beast.
From fenestrated center comes the noise on which we feast!
The sparkling peals of chime and harp, the helicoptering bass,
Gauzy strings from dual ranks, the pipe battalion filling every space.

At concerts there's a retinue of curators and volunteers,
And at the console sits the the one to bring forth her shouts and prayers.

Running out the sands of time, music for the years:
Weeks and months of concert days to calm or jolt our ears.
More than formal concerts now, we've marathons and more!
Dog parades, a horse onstage - occasions by the score.

To prompt these dates, to plan each special note
Our organist has telephoned, facebooked, emailed, and wrote --

Thinking through the little talks, managing the sound,
Negotiating talent down: "The Park has lovely walks!"

All to serve the gods of Music, which ethereally command,
"You'll play each and every Sunday and promote the City's brand!"

To marathons, speeches, and summer -
Bach, Beatles, and Widor -
Toccatas, suites, adagios, and fugues -
Medleys, movies - to crowds small and huge! -

Are given Carol's talent plus that of all her guests.
Presenting oceans of music for every interest.

After fifteen long years, the Centennial achievement,
The Drive to Five Thousand, and dear Vivian's bereavement,

The time has come for Carol to search out those greener pastures
And return the Spreckels "hot seat" to Music's stern taskmaster.

Her adventures will continue far from the colonnades' clutch,
But the great Spreckels Organ will miss her unique touch.

"Farewell Oscar Park, and the whole retinue -
Hello to new vistas of musical view!"

- Ross Porter