



Drive to 5,000 Pipes Heralded
 The final step of the “Drive to 5000” pipes has been completed, with the installation of four cast aluminum plaques in the Spreckels Organ Pavilion that carry the dedications of more than 250 people who donated to the capital campaign. More than 500 pipes, plus special improvements to the façade and percussion voices, have brought the organ’s pipe count to 5,017, making it the World’s Largest Outdoor Pipe Organ.

The Drive to 5000 raised more than \$240,000 between December 2012 and June of 2015. A special “Taking the Title” concert on April 23, 2016 marked the full use of all the new ranks, bells, and whistles. These new pipes bring exciting new voices that add more color and shimmer to the sound experience of a Spreckels Organ concert.

Stage 1 of the Drive, the Centennial Tuba rank of pipes, requires a separate blower in order to power the big pipes, which give a “bold, broad cap to the total organ ensemble,” in the words of Curator Emeritus Lyle Blackinton.

Stage 2 of the Drive, also dedicated at the Centennial Concert of Dec. 14, 2014, consists of the paired ranks of Gamba and Gamba Celeste. These 146 pipes introduce string sounds that were missing on the Great manual, as a result enhancing the entire string ensemble of the organ.

Stage 3, which does not offer added numbers to the official pipe count, nevertheless brings important and recognizable features: Triangle, castanets, tambourine, Persian roll cymbal, klaxon, siren, train whistle, doorbell and other special sounds now add to the enjoyment of watching a silent movie here, accompanied by the Spreckels Organ. This stage also includes Glockenspiel and Xylophone of 37 notes each.

Stages 4 and 5 are comprised of the four new pipe ranks that were dedicated in the April 23rd “Taking the Title” concert.

These ranks are the Geigen Celeste, Violina Celeste, Crommorne, and Vox Humana. The 8’ Geigen Celeste rank and the 4’ Violina Celeste rank add richness and “shimmer” to the string sounds on the Choir manual. The 8’ Vox Humana and the 8’ Crommorne add a distinctive voice to the Solo manual.

Thanks to L.W. Blackinton & Associates for the team’s superb work on the additions to San Diego’s musical treasure, and for creation and installation of the new Dedication Plaques!



...and thanks, all donors, for the Do-Re-Mi!

Upcoming Events

The Spreckels Organ plays every Sunday, rain or shine, at 2 p.m for a free public concert in the heart of Balboa Park.

- Sat. Apr 14 – Inaugural Concert for Raúl Prieto Ramírez – 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Apr. 21 – AGO / SD Organ Crawl – registration required www.agosd.org
- Sun. Apr 22 – EARTH FAIR in Balboa Park
- Sat. May 26 – FIESTA BOTANICA celebrates Balboa Park’s 150th Birthday! Organ Concerts at 1 pm. and 2 p.m.
- Tues. Jun 19 – Opening Concert: “Twilight in the Park” music series 6:15 p.m
- Mon. Jun 25 - Opening Concert of 31st International Organ Festival, 7:30 p.m.
- Mon. Aug 6 - Annual SOS Membership Meeting on Pavilion Stage at 5:30 p.m.
- Tues. Aug 7 - Raúl Prieto Ramírez plays at “Twilight in the Park” - 6:15 p.m.
- Mon. Aug 20 – Movie Night Beer/Wine Tasting Fundraiser at Japanese Friendship Garden, 5 to 7 pm.—followed by annual Silent Movie at Organ Festival.
- Mon. Sept 3 – Finale Concert of the Summer Organ Festival
- Sat. Oct 6 – Onstage fundraising luncheon including intimate concert
- Sat. Dec 1 – Community Christmas Center opening – 3 p.m.
- Fri / Sat Dec 7-8 – December Nights in Balboa Park
- Tues. Jan 1, 2019 - New Years Day Concert



Society member “Ranger” Slater is hoping for more members to join our pack! Help us reach 2,000 members in 2018 by urging a friend or fellow music-lover to join the Spreckels Organ Society.





Dear Members and Friends of the Spreckels Organ Society,

The weather is certainly nice in San Diego but I can report a whirlwind in the level of activity of our Society since January! I have been pleased to work with the San Diego Children's Choir to arrange for a special concert on our stage on March 18. Our Spreckels

whirlwind has also reached other organizations in the city musically to create new experiences for the wonderful Sunday audiences. It has also been fun to meet and play for the patrons at the brunch concert and tour, who were all so interested in everything that Dale and I had to share about the magnificent Spreckels Organ. I'm now reaching out to extraordinary artists to make the 31st Spreckels season truly a shining one. I look forward to bringing more amazing music forward not just through my own work and that of my talented spouse, but also in collaboration with other amazing musical groups here in San Diego and the world class organ talents who will be jointing us this summer. Se you on April 14 and most Sundays at the Pavilion!

Sincerely,

Raúl Prieto Ramírez
Civic Organist / Artistic Director

Dear Friends:

The excitement continues! With Raúl Prieto Ramírez at the helm. Our average Sunday attendance has more than doubled, membership numbers are up, as are also the contributions that go along with those membership numbers!

Many of you remember the Drive to 5000 a few years back, the results of which enabled us to increase the size of the organ so that we can say that the Grand Dame who we so greatly love is now the largest outdoor pipe organ in the world. Many of you contributed to make that possible as well as many who are not members but wanted to memorialize a friend or relative by paying for an individual pipe. Well, the plaques that recognize all of this generosity have been installed in the Pavilion. On April 8 we are inviting all those who helped us along to stay after the Sunday concert to see the plaques and to give an opportunity for each contributor or family to hear their individual note(s) played. I am so thrilled that we have so many friends of the Society who come out and participate when asked!

Raúl's inaugural evening concert is coming up in April (see the flyer insert), and we are expecting a very large crowd for this full-length concert. Plan to be in that crowd! You will be glad you did!

You members are what keep the music flowing. I sense a lot of excitement at concerts and when I am out and about in the city. Be a part of that excitement!

Warmly,



Jack Lasher
President

April 14: Pre-Concert Potluck

Spreckels Organ Society members are invited to bring a dish (serving 5 or more) and share in the potluck supper that will be hosted by the American Guild of Organists / San Diego in the East Colonnade of the organ pavilion at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday April 14. No reservation required – just bring a dish!

Summer Organ Festival 2018

Eleven concerts will comprise the 31st annual International Summer Organ Festival beginning Monday, June 25 and concluding on Labor Day, September 3. On Movie Night, August 20, Steven Ball returns to play the organ at a concert preceded by the Society's special event fundraiser offering beer and wine tastings next door in the Japanese Friendship Garden.

Other highlights include Rising Star night on August 6 – twins Paul and Riley Xu, an amazing duo; young organists Alessandro Pittorino and Chelsea Chen play on other nights this season; audience favorite Walt Strony offers an all-American program on July 9. Concerts by Raúl Prieto Ramírez: on his own (June 25) and together with his wife, Teresa Sierra, on piano (August 27). A rock-oriented finale concert is set for Labor Day, September 3.

Details on performers and dates will be posted at www.SpreckelsOrgan.org.

Of Bells and Bullhorns

The picturesque California Tower, designed by Bertram Goodhue, is one of San Diego's most-photographed icons – yet when closely viewed, it's not bells but bullhorn speakers you'll see.

When the Tower gets a seismic retrofit in the next few months, it will also get new loudspeakers, in a \$25,000 project of the [Friends of Balboa Park](http://www.FriendsOfBalboaPark.org). The speakers are necessary to project the sound of the 100-bell "symphonic carillon" that dates from the 1960s and which offers three songs every day at noon, played by carillonist Gina Seashore.

The electronic amplification is necessary, but there are now better loudspeakers that can substitute for the 60s bullhorns and give a better visual impression to photographers and listeners alike. Thanks to the "Friends" for this improvement to our park!

Chelsea Chen and Joseph Lee—Concert

Acclaimed organist Chelsea Chen and New York City Ballet cellist Joseph Lee bring their unique artistry to a concert of organ and cello music:

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
3502 Clairemont Drive / San Diego CA 92117
4:30 pm on Sunday, April 15

One of the most celebrated organists of her generation, Chelsea Chen has electrified audiences throughout the world. Joseph Lee is a beloved member of the New York City Ballet Orchestra and currently teaches at the Geneva Conservatory in Manhattan. Both Ms Chen and Mr. Lee earned degrees at The Juilliard School.



Inside the windchest—Dale Sorenson, curator, with attendees of the annual Brunch-Concert-Tour explaining how the electro-pneumatic action of the organ makes the music. Photo: Dwight Gordon.

Music and More: Community Celebration of Balboa Park's 150th Anniversary Set for May 26

Commemorating the founding of "City Park" in 1868, a "Fiesta Botanica" will celebrate springtime with music, tours of historic gardens, and more on Saturday, May 26.

Musical offerings include brief concerts on the Spreckels Organ by Raúl Prieto Ramírez at 1 and 2 p.m. and, elsewhere in the Park, the Danny Green Quartet, the "Save Starlight" Band, and Hullabaloo.

The celebration begins at 10 a.m. with a Flower Wagon parade along the Prado. More than two dozen activity and information booths along the Prado will offer arts and crafts, horticultural demonstrations, seed and plant giveaways, and more.

A full schedule of the day's events is online at: <https://balboaparkconservancy.org/project/fiesta-botanica/>

Fiesta Botanica is presented by the Balboa Park Conservancy in partnership with the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department. Park Rangers and other experts will lead tours of the park's gardens, historic landscapes, and the Botanical Building; the Japanese Friendship Garden will offer kits to make miniature *kodama* fairy gardens; the Friends of Balboa Park will coordinate butterfly releases in the Zoro Garden; Spanish Village Art Center will offer open-air sketching stations; plants will be on sale in the Casa del Prado patio, and more than a dozen food trucks will be parked on Village Place to offer food for hungry humans.

The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership will hold a Sustainability Scavenger Hunt. Lectures on all types of gardening and horticulture topics will be held in the House of Hospitality, including landscape design, edible plants, organic gardening, drought-tolerant plants, and more.

During its 150-year life, Balboa Park has transformed from a set of arid mesas on the outskirts of downtown into an historic landscape of amazing complexity, boosted by two international expositions and scores of stakeholder organizations including the Spreckels Organ Society.

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