

## **Carol Williams**

D.M.A., ARAM, Dip Ram, AD (Yale), FRCO, FTCL, ARCM

### **" America's Sweet-Heart Concert Organist "**

#### **Ambition:**

"I want to bring the organ to new audiences and, with my performances, make people feel good."

#### **Education:**

British born, Carol was raised in a Welsh family with many musical influence. She began private lessons at age five and could read music before she could read English and began performing recitals at age 8. Carol's formal training started with five years at the Royal Academy of Music where she specialized in organ performing as a student of David Sanger and obtained the Academy's prestigious Recital Diploma together with an LRAM (organ) and an LRAM (piano). She was awarded all the major prizes for organ performing and, during her studies; she became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and a Fellow of Trinity College London plus an Associate of the Royal College of Music. Carol has also studied with Daniel Roth, the Organist at the Church of St. Sulpice, Paris where the famous Charles-Marie Widor was organist for sixty-three years. Moving to the USA, Carol undertook postgraduate study at Yale University under the direction of Professor Thomas Murray where she was appointed University Chapel Organist and was awarded an Artist Diploma together with the Charles Ives prize for outstanding achievement. Then to New York City where she became the Associate Organist at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Long Island's Garden City and undertook Doctoral study under Professor McNeil Robinson at the Manhattan School of Music where she received the Helen Cohn award for her D.M.A. degree.

#### **History:**

Carol's performances have taken her all over the world at popular venues such as in Paris at St. Sulpice & Notre Dame; in Los Angeles at Walt Disney Concert Hall & First Congregational Church; in NYC at Riverside Church & St. Patrick's Cathedral; at Yale University in Woolsey Hall; at Harvard University at the Memorial Chapel; in Washington DC at the Washington National Cathedral; in the United Kingdom at Westminster Abbey & St. Paul's Cathedral; King's College, Cambridge; Queen's College, Oxford; and Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire. Carol has also given numerous concerts in Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Monaco, Luxembourg, Holland, Poland, Germany, Denmark, Singapore, China and Russia. En route, Carol has been elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM) in recognition of her contribution to music. A regular broadcaster in the UK, America, and around the world she has performed with a number of leading orchestras including the BBC Concert Orchestra, San Diego Symphony Orchestra, the Beijing Symphony Orchestra as the inaugural recitalist on the newly-installed Austin organ in Beijing's Forbidden City Concert Hall. Carol has been interviewed "live" on many radio programs, in which she has highlighted her profound love of the King of Instruments, and is featured in the national-awareness video "Pulling out all the Stops" when she was filmed in concert at St. Thomas' Church in New York's Fifth Avenue. Carol was privileged to take part in the Virgil Fox Memorial Concert held at New York's Riverside Church released as a double-CD by Gothic Records.

#### **Present:**

- Civic Organist of the City of San Diego, CA (2001 first woman in the world appointed Civic Organist).
- Artistic Director of the Spreckels Organ Society (presenting summer organ concert series).
- Organist in Residence, St. Paul's Cathedral, San Diego, CA
- President of the North & Midlands School of Music in the United Kingdom.
- Host "TourBus" video series about the great and small, famous and unique pipe organs of the world.

#### **Appeal:**

Carol gives a new spin to the classical organ concert not only with her programs of great genre variety of pop, classical and jazz but, the special charismatic humor she engages the audience with during her narrative anecdotes of interesting stories and of other totally useless obscure information. International audiences have received Carols' live performances with "rock star" enthusiasm.