

## **Carol Williams**

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

"America's Sweet Heart 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 recital 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. Some popular venues include: St. Sulpice and Notre Dame, Paris; Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles; Washington National Cathedral; Riverside Church and St. Patrick's, New York City; Woolsey Hall, Yale University; Memorial Chapel, Harvard University; Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral; King's College, Cambridge; Queen's College, Oxford; Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire. She 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 and in America, she has been the guest performer with a number of leading orchestras including the BBC Concert Orchestra, San Diego Symphony Orchestra, the Beijing Symphony Orchestra and performed the inaugural recitals on a 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 she 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. She was also privileged to take part in the Virgil Fox Memorial Concert held in the fall of 2000 at New York's Riverside Church and a recording of the memorable event has been released as a double-CD by Gothic Records. Carol is also hosting a video series named "TourBus" featuring the great and small, famous and unique organs of the world, its music, people and places. In October of 2001 Dr. Carol Williams is the first woman to be appointed Civic Organist. Dr. Williams is the Artistic Director of the Spreckels Organ Society; San Diego Civic Organist and Organist in Residence at St. Paul's Cathedral in San Diego, California.

### **International Appeal:**

Carol gives a new spin to classical organ concerts with her charismatic humor. International audiences have received Carols' live performances with a "rock star" enthusiasm.

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