

Carol Williams

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

“America's Sweetheart Organist ”

Ambition:

"I want to bring the pipe 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 and began private lessons at age five and could read music before she could read English. She began performing organ recitals at age eight.

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).

Carol was awarded all the major prizes for organ performance 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 continued her studies with Daniel Roth, the Organist at the Church of St. Sulpice, Paris.

Then moving to the United States in 1995 she 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.

Next Carol undertook Doctoral studies under Professor McNeil Robinson at the Manhattan School of Music where she received the Helen Cohn award for her D.M.A. degree. During her time there she was the Associate Organist at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Long Island's Garden City. In 2001 Carol became the first woman in the world to hold the title “Civic Organist” as San Diego Civic Organist from 2001-2016. This position is one of the remaining Civic Organist positions in the world.

History:

Carol's performances have taken her around the globe to popular pipe organ venues such as St. Sulpice church & Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris; the Walt Disney Concert Hall and First Congregational Church in Los Angeles; Riverside Church & St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York; and the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, DC. The United Kingdom organ venues included Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, King's College, Queen's College, and Blenheim Palace. As well as numerous concerts in Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Monaco, Luxembourg, Holland, Poland, Germany, Denmark, Singapore, China and Russia.

Carol throws out a wide net to entice new audiences to the concert organ. She is known for her collaborations with various Jazz, Blues, Pop and Rock bands and performances with leading orchestras including the BBC Concert Orchestra, San Diego Symphony Orchestra, and the Beijing Symphony Orchestra to mention a few.

As a featured musician on many Blogs, PodCasts, Radio Stations and TV News in America, the United Kingdom and around the world, she highlights her profound love of the “King of Instruments”, and is also featured on several other particular organ DVD projects and series.

In the United Kingdom, Carol has been elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM) in recognition of her contribution to music.

Carol has performed for many special occasions including for Princes Diana, the Virgil Fox Memorial Concert and, in the 10th anniversary of the Walt Disney Concert Hall Organ celebration.

Presently:

- - Composer - Concert Organist
- - Artistic Director of the Spreckels Organ Society
- - Artistic Director of the Lynchburg International Organ Festival
- - Organist In Residence, Court Street United Methodist Church, Lynchburg, VA
- - Host of the “TourBus” documentary series
(featuring the great & small, famous & unique pipe organs of the world, its music, people and places)
- - Host of the YouTube series “On The Bench with Dr. Carol”
(interviewing artists, curators, conductors and composers)
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Philanthropy:

Carol donates over 20 hours a year performing fund raising concerts for awareness of various charitable organizations.

Appeal:

Carol gives a new spin to the “classical organ concert” with her programs of vast genre diversity, elegance and charismatic humor. Her performances are received with “rock star” enthusiasm.

Managed by Kerry J. Bell management@melcot.com

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