

STOP TAB

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Summer 2011

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Welcome to Summer in San Diego!



Music in the outdoors is a big part of the enjoyment of this wonderful season. Our Summer Organ Festival on Monday evenings is in full swing with marvelous artists whom I hope you are enjoying. Be sure to invite friends to join you.

Organ Festival Concert Preview Radio Programs on Tuesday nights at 7:00 P.M. on XLNC1 (104.9 FM) will feature music to be performed at the following Monday night concert. Dr. Carol Williams is your host. See the back page of your festival program book for details.

Our Membership has just passed the 1,000 mark for which we are most pleased. Average gifts are down somewhat, no doubt reflecting the current economic recession. Happily, some renewals have come in at increased levels which is a great help. If you have not yet sent in your renewal, please do so soon to help us accomplish our mission work.

The Civic Organist's contract renewal will come up later this summer in the City Council chambers on the twelfth floor. Watch our website for the time when it is announced. We invite everyone to come and pack the seats in the council chambers and be prepared to stand in support of the Park & Recreation Department recommendation to renew the Civic Organist's contract for ten years from their budget. The current contract expired on June 30.

August 1 will be a special Monday night. At 6:00 we will convene our Annual Membership Meeting where information about our future plans will be shared. Later, at our "Rising Star" concert with Christopher Houlihan, scholarships will be awarded to the winners of our Spreckels/AGO auditions this Spring. The American Guild of Organists, San Diego, will be co-sponsoring the concert.

These are exciting times with the publicity about the festival and the Civic Organist contract renewal causing a lot of comment in the community. We will keep you informed about current happenings in our website, sosorgan.org.

I'll see you at the pavilion!

Ronald De Fields

See Silent Movies this Autumn

The Theatre Organ Society of San Diego (TOSSD) is proud to present two Silent Movie Night programs. On October 8, 2011, Russ Peck will accompany four Charlie Chaplin shorts starting at 7 p.m. The Mark of Zorro will show at 7 p.m. on November 5, accompanied by Greg Breed. Tickets are \$12.00 per person, sold only at the door. The doors open at 6 PM. Program location: Trinity Facilities, 3902 Kenwood Drive, Spring Valley (near 94 & Spring Street) For further info: 1-888-61-TOSSD or www.TOSSD.org or TOSSD@cox.net ■

Mark Your Calendars

Monday, August 1

Free Membership Meeting 6 pm in the Santa Fe Room of the Balboa Park Club (the meeting will conclude in time for you to get seated for that night's Concert in the Pavilion.) Please RSVP your attendance to: sosorgan@gmail.com

Sunday, December 18

Fundraising dinner cruise in San Diego Bay to see the annual boat parade of Holiday Lights..

\$125 apiece / \$150 for nonmembers
(your extra \$25 confers membership)

Carol's Corner



Dear Friends

Firstly, I must say a big thank you for all the letters we have received regarding the situation with myself, the organ and the City. The support has been wonderful and really helped at this difficult time. People from all over the world love this place and we are so fortunate to have this treasure. We will do our best to keep the "voice" of San Diego alive for many years.

Opening night was much fun. A huge audience turned out and it was a great pleasure to work with the House of Scotland Pipe Band, the wonderful choir from St. Paul's Cathedral conducted by Martin Green and those fine herald Trumpeters. The photos on our website have captured the great atmosphere of the evening.

I have a quick trip to the East coast with 3 concerts. On the trip, we will be releasing our 6th DVD in the TourBus series "TourBus goes to Ocean Grove" where I have one of the concerts. This is the story of the Ocean Grove organ (100 ranks bigger than ours!) and the delightful Victorian community. A truly picturesque place in New Jersey. Full details on my website www.melcot.com

Don't forget, all the Festival concerts are listed on the Spreckels website and photos of the evenings. Always worth a look at www.sosorgan.org

Please say hello if you are here this Summer at the Organ Pavilion.

Bye for now

Dr. Carol

Sunday Concerts are in Jeopardy...

So reads the announcement on the Spreckels website and on the printed programs distributed each Sunday in the Organ Pavilion. The failure to renew the City of San Diego's contract with Civic Organist Dr. Carol Williams does indeed jeopardize the free Sunday concerts, so the Spreckels Organ Society is hard at work on a favorable resolution.

Since May, a team of Spreckels Organ Society advocates has met with almost every council member or their staff representative, and it is expected that the issue will be on a meeting agenda later this summer. Please come and help us to obtain a favorable reception by the full San Diego City Council.

This experience has galvanized the SOS board and regional supporters, and spurred us to develop new ways of sharing the story of the Spreckels organ. SOS has also been inspired to think about new ways to program and promote concerts in the Pavilion. Your support and ideas are always welcome! ■

Read All About Us!

The International Summer Organ Festival is attracting plenty of media attention. channels 8, 9, and 7/39 were all in the Pavilion to do stories and interviews for the launch concert on June 20, and arts reporters from the Union Tribune, Voice of San Diego, and other media have written us up. The beautiful work from photographer Bob Lang, including these Herald Trumpeters below, show that the Monday night concerts at the Organ Pavilion are spectacles not to be missed! ■



SANDIEGO.com



SOS to Present Scholarships at Christopher Houlihan Concert on August 1st

BY JARED JACOBSEN, CHAIR, EDUCATION COMMITTEE

One of the tasks your Society takes most seriously is the nurture of young organists from our region. The San Diego community is blessed to have a team of gifted organ teachers who are committed to this nurture as well, and the Society is proud of a rich collaboration we have developed over time with the San Diego Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, providing financial assistance through scholarships for worthy students each year.

On Saturday, May 14th, 18 organ students (and 9 piano students auditioning for an introductory set of organ lessons) took part in auditions on the recently enlarged instrument at First Unitarian Church in San Diego; Civic Organist Carol Williams and UCLA University Organist and professor Christoph Bull were among the judges who selected this year's SOS/AGO winners: Thomas Mellan (first place), Suzy Webster (second place), and Carl Best (third place). These remarkable young organists, along with five other young people who showed special merit, were invited by Dr. Williams to play the Spreckels Organ in a special concert entitled "The Young Organist" on Sunday, June 5th. Our three top winners will be presented with their scholarship checks at this summer's "Rising Star" program, which will feature the dazzling young organist Christopher Houlihan playing the Spreckels Organ on Monday, August 1st at 7:30 PM.

If you have a particular interest in supporting our joint SOS/AGO scholarship program, please contact Ross Porter, Executive Administrator, at info@sosorgan.org or 619-702-8138.



Photo courtesy Bob Lang

Scholarship Winners and other talented young organists at the Spreckels Organ.



Thomas Mellan, 16, is a sophomore at Dehesa Charter High School in Escondido and also attends Palomar College in San Marcos. He has more than 30 compositions to his credit, including the nationally acclaimed *Galaxies and Explosions*. Thomas's organ music has been premiered at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion; St. Paul's Cathedral in San Diego; Rider University in New Jersey; and the historic Chautauqua Institution in New York, where former San Diego Civic Organist will present *Galaxies and Explosions* this summer on the historic Massey Memorial Outdoor Organ.

Suzy Webster, 12, will be entering the 7th grade at Santa Fe Christian Junior High School this fall, and has studied piano and organ with Leslie Wolf Robb since she was five. A recent first-place winner in the Southern California Bach Festival Regional and Complete Works Competitions, Suzy will perform in the Bach Festival Memorial Awards Program on October 15th, on the world's largest church organ at the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles.



Carl Best, 10, just finished his 4th grade year at Torrey Pines Elementary School. He also is a piano and organ student of Leslie Wolf Robb, and earned an Honorable Mention at the MTAC Sonata Contest in 2010 and Excellent ratings at the MTAC Certificate of Merit evaluation this year. Upon completion of his father's sabbatical year in San Diego, Carl and his family will travel home to Holland, Michigan, where Carl will return to the piano and organ studio of Judy Koeman.

New Gift Shop Items

Check out the new polo shirts in black, dark red, or royal blue, handsomely embroidered with the Spreckels pipes. There's also a new style of coffee mug, a silver drinking tumbler, and beautifully-etched wine glasses, all with the unique Spreckels organ identifier that make great gifts for visitors and locals alike. ■



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Dr. Carol Williams, San Diego Civic Organist

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**Sunday Concerts
in Jeopardy --
How You Can
Help**

Details Inside



JONATHAN ORTLOFF
was the featured organist
at the Spreckels Organ
Pavilion on June 27.

**MONDAY CONCERTS
BEGIN AT 7:30 P.M.
THROUGH LABOR DAY
WEEKEND.**

*Photo: Bob Lang,
Spreckels Organ Society*