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Unique 12-Hour Marathon of Organ Playing

The usual Sunday concert on Labor Day weekend became a one-hour section of a full 12-hour organ playing marathon conceived by Dr. Carol Williams as a personal athletic feat that would benefit those who have been injured while serving our nation in uniform, either as first responders or active military.

From 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on September 2, everyone near the Prado in Balboa Park heard the great Spreckels Organ, and many came to the Pavilion for an extended time to hear Carol's great playing and learn more about her quest to raise \$12,000 for Operation Rebound.

Spreckels Organ Society volunteers worked overtime as well, bringing snacks for those who were on hand to furnish hospitality. Read the full report on Page 2 of this edition of the StopTab!

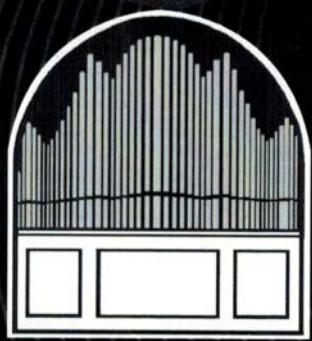
Membership Campaign Update

Did you know that more than one-third of Spreckels Organ Society member households are located outside of San Diego County? Learn more about Spreckels members and campaign progress on Page 3.

Don't Miss the Boat!
December "Parade of Lights"
Cruise Information inside.

STOP TAB

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Autumn 2012

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Shimmering Silver Summer Series!

The summer's Silver Anniversary festival attracted a total audience of almost 25,000. *Above*, the Finale Concert on August 27 included this Festival Choir led by Michael Morgan. Among the season's highlights was a stellar violin performance on July 30 by Annelle K. Gregory (*right*) of J.S. Bach's Fugue from Sonata I. The festival audience that night was also treated to the singing of Kelsey and Paul Young and an outstanding bass solo from 14-year-old Joey Hahn, plus the House of Scotland Pipe Band. You can view photos of all the summer concerts at www.SOSorgan.org, thanks to the outstanding photography of Robert Lang, who furnished the photos for this edition of the *StopTab*. Mark your calendar now for the first Monday night concert of next summer on June 24, 2013.



From the President:



President Ron De Fields with Angie Barr, the Spreckels Organ Society Volunteer of the Year. Angie is the backstage angel that everyone depends upon! Her husband, Ed Barr, is among the founders of the Spreckels Organ Society. We are lucky that Angie has also adopted the cause of great organ music!

So many people volunteered their time and expertise to make the Summer Organ Festival a success: Frank Kozak as Head Greeter, Ted Struck as Refreshments Manager, Roy Attridge and Dale Sorenson provided special lighting, while Randy Ward, assisted by Mitch Beauchamp, Dennis Fox and Andrea Card, ran the Gift Shop. Charles Ballinger and Bill Galante operated the Membership Desk, and Bob Lang took all the professional photos that appear on our web site. Don Snowden and John Thomas kept our Audio systems operating well. Ross Porter, our Executive Administrator, acted as House Manager and ensured that everything ran smoothly. To amazing Angie Barr and to all the volunteers who worked hard to make this summer a success, we express our sincere Thank You for jobs well done.

Financially, the festival was a success, due not only to the wonderful sponsors listed by each concert, but also to those of you who contributed in the Gold Boxes, bought refreshments, and made Gift Shop purchases. The small deficit we experienced was funded by the Warren Nichols Bequest, which was left to us for that purpose.

Membership is again fast approaching record levels. If you have not yet renewed, please consider doing it now. Your Silver Anniversary commemorative pin awaits you.

Attendance is growing at our Family Festival Sundays. The next one is October 14 and will feature lots of activities for everyone, starting at 1:30 p.m.

I hope you have a happy and rewarding autumn season. I look forward to seeing you on Sundays at the pavilion.

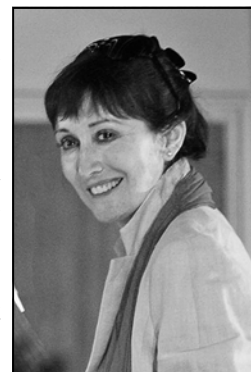
Ronald De Fields



DEAR FRIENDS...

The Summer seems to have gone in a flash - probably because we have had such a great deal of fun at the Organ Pavilion. The Festival was a superb - each artist presented colorful programs and played extremely well.

The only sad note, was the loss of Carlo Curley. He had been a great friend and I will miss him very much. None of us here realized how ill he was - such a tragic loss to the world. But, I am glad he has played here at the Organ Pavilion in 2007. See an appreciation for the "Pavarotti of the Organ" online at www.carlo.com



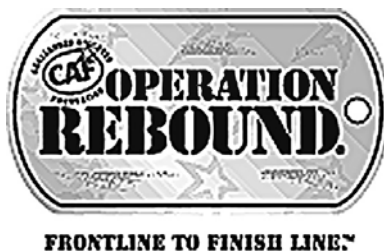
The 12 hour Organ Marathon went very well and you can visit the SOS website and see some memorable moments captured by Bob Lang - we are very lucky to have his expert photos. And, you can see on the Spreckels Facebook page some gorgeous photos and moments captured by Dwight Gordon.

I have just been honored by being made President of the North and Midlands School of Music in England. They are a great School in England and I am delighted to have been asked. I have a few trips later in the year - to the midwest for 3 concerts and then out to Russia. Will be cold out there!

Take care and best wishes – Dr. Carol



Marathon Day: September 2, 2012



Above left: Operation Rebound Program Manager Nico Marcolongo. Right: Dan Casara shares his story.

On September 2, the unique 12-hour marathon concert by Dr. Carol Williams raised more than \$11,000 to benefit Operation Rebound. At press time, the total stood at \$11,624.00 – an amazing accomplishment in fundraising as well as in artistic achievement. Media coverage included a Tuesday morning photo in the Union Tribune, preceded by stories on XLNC-104.9 FM, KUSI News, KOGO AM600 and other outlets.

The long day on stage included remarks by District 3 City Councilmember Todd Gloria. The continuous playing of Dr. Williams was enhanced by performances including readings by Ray Britt, Ross Porter, and Walter Ritter of Write Out Loud. Cameo playing by Young Organist Suzy Webster, along with singing from soprano Kelsey Young and mezzo soprano Martha Jane Weaver augmented the organ programming.

Operation Rebound volunteers were accepting contributions and acting as greeters. The American Guild of Organists, SD Humane Society, Organ Stop, Inc. staffed tables to offer information to the public. Special thanks for in-kind contributions are due to Printing on Fifth Avenue, the Twilight in the Park Committee, the City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department and its Nursery operation, Cause for Celebration, Bell Video Production, LW Blackinton & Associates, the Prado Restaurant, San Diego Children's Choir, and St. Paul's Cathedral of San Diego.

The Challenged Athletes Foundation's Operation Rebound provides unparalleled opportunities to pursue active, athletic lifestyles by offering access to funding for equipment and training and competition expenses, Military Medical Center Physical Training (MMCPT) and sports clinics. Learn more at www.ChallengedAthletes.org, and pledge online by clicking the link at www.Melcot.com.



Young Organist Talent Recognized

Above, Ron De Fields awards scholarships during the August 6 organ concert. From right to left: Sam Buse (1st place); Nicholas Halbert (2nd Place) and Shane Cowell (3rd place). The Spreckels Organ Society and the American Guild of Organists team up to offer these scholarships to encourage study of "the King of Instruments."

A Great Pair of Lungs!

By Lyle Blackinton, Co-Curator

The Spreckels Organ has a bold, majestic sound that is due in large part to the fact that it has a great set of lungs...or wind supply. Austin organs of this vintage had a solid reputation for producing organs with wind supplies that were "unshakable" due to their generous sized air-chests, bellows and blowers.

If you have been inside the main air-chest during one of the annual Spreckels Organ Society brunches, you have seen the large vertical bellows that takes up the south wall of the chamber (*see photo*). This bellows acts as a pressure regulator that regulates the wind supply coming from the blower. The organ blower is in the basement of the Pavilion. It's powered by 20 hp electric motor and produces up to 5000 cubic feet of air per minute at 15 in (H₂O) pressure. The blower was manufactured by the Spencer Turbine Company that along with the Austin Organ Company were both located in Hartford Connecticut.



Kids of all ages gather on stage to hear the organ up close during **Family Festival Day**. The next such occasion is **Sunday, October 14**, with activities and fun provided by the Spreckels Organ Society, Write Out Loud, the San Diego Youth Symphony, the Choristers Guild, and the Theatre Organ Society of San Diego. Bring the youngsters out on this special day! **Activities start at 1:30 pm and the concert at 2 pm.**

Annual Membership meeting

About 100 members of the Spreckels Organ Society convened on August 13. Carol Williams noted that upcoming **live webcasts** of the Sunday afternoon concerts should help overcome any difficulties connected with the Plaza de Panama construction now anticipated to start in December. Presentations by President Ron De Fields and Trustee George Hardy outlined plans for the upcoming Centennial, starting with a 100th Birthday Concert for the Spreckels Organ on December 31, 2014.

Report: 2012 Membership Campaign

By the launch of the Summer Organ Festival, the 2012 membership stood at a total of 567 households containing more than 800 individual members. During the course of the summer, another 202 households joined the Organ Society, bringing the total membership funds to within "striking distance" of the annual goal of \$52,000, and the total individual membership to just over 1,000.

The average level of household giving is just shy of \$70, with "Solo" memberships of \$25 amounting to more than a third of the households who join. A further indication of the widespread interest and support for the organ and its unique programming is that more than 250 member households (about 37 percent of member households) are located outside San Diego County.

Thanks for your support! And one further request: please ask a friend to join the Spreckels Organ Society. Your words of encouragement make all the difference.

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