

**Spring 2011**

*In this issue...*

**SCHOLARSHIP  
AUDITIONS**

*Page 4*

**CONSOLE UPDATE**

*Page 5*

**CALL TO ACTION  
ON CIVIC ORGANIST**

*Page 7*

# Announcing 2011 Summer Organ Festival



Photo courtesy Bob Lang

The House of Scotland Pipe Band will be one of the featured guests at June 20 Bach's Supper

The 2011 Summer Organ Festival kicks off with Bach's Supper on June 20. San Diego Civic Organist **Carol Williams** will be joined by featured artists including **The House of Scotland Pipe Band**, **The Finest City Brass Herald Trumpets**, and **The Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral**.

Don't miss this evening of great music to kick off the 2011 Summer Organ Festival. Concerts are Monday Evenings at 7:30 P.M. All Concerts are **FREE** admission. Refreshments will be available and the Gift Shop will be open.

*See page 3 for the complete 2011 lineup.*



## Executive Administrator Named

Ross Porter joined the Spreckels Organ Society in February as the Executive Administrator, after completing a six-year term on the Society's Board of Trustees. As part of the transition into his new position, Ross coordinated a workshop retreat for the Board to promote discussion of longer-term questions than are usually addressed at Trustee meetings. A San Diego native and graduate of Yale University, Ross has strong connections to

Balboa Park and to organ music. (His mother, Kay Porter, played an active role in the Spreckels Organ Society and in the acquisition of a vintage organ at the Balboa Theatre downtown.) During his career as a communications professional, Ross has developed his musical side to include singing with a big band (the Moonlight Serenade Orchestra) and hosting a weekly program on San Diego's Jazz 88.3 FM, the Big Band Brunch. ■

## Carol's Corner



Dr. Carol seated at the organ in De Montfort Hall, Leicester, UK

Dear Friends

I have just had a wonderful recent concert tour of England – playing four great organs in various parts of the country. Included in the tour was the concert hall organ of De Montfort Hall in Leicester, UK. After the concert, a group of people came up and said that the last time they heard me was in San Diego. This also happened at my concert in the delightful farming town of Usk, South Wales – more friends who actually visit the Spreckels organ frequently. It is a small world, is it not!

One of my favorite Sunday concerts is the annual Bark in Balboa Park – on May 1 it was number five! Thanks to Brad Wills from FOX5 news for helping the Humane Society to show off the dogs for adoption on stage, and special thanks to young organist Suzy Webster who performed beautifully. Her dog Ranger was a crowd-pleaser, too. Music is always “woof” friendly and the famous Pet Parade proved it.

The Summer Organ Festival looms fast and all details are on our website. It will be a great year with a fine line-up of concert artists. I hope that some of you can attend and enjoy these superb organists on our great organ.

Take care. Bye for now.

*Dr. Carol*

## From The President

Greetings from the organ pavilion and Balboa Park. We hope you can join us often for organ concerts in the beautiful outdoors. Interesting and exciting programs are planned for every Sunday featuring Dr. Carol Williams, our Civic Organist, and an array of guest organists. Watch our website for weekly updates.

Our 2011 Membership Campaign is now underway. This is what funds our mission to preserve, program, and promote our great Spreckels Organ. It includes funding the weekly organ educational programs for fifth graders, scholarships for promising young organ students, supplementing our Civic Organist's salary, providing for our administrator to keep our office and programs functioning well, and much more.

Our membership for 2010 almost reached 1,000 active members. Due to the current economic recession, however, total gifts were down from previous years.

With a 40% reduction in funding for SOS from the city TOT arts funding, we face another challenging year. We are grateful that many of you have been able to increase your membership levels to help us “weather the storm” during these difficult economic times. Every gift, in any amount, is important to us.

Five valued trustees have just completed their six-year terms of service. They are Julie Hudson, Randy Grabowski, the late Dr. Leroy Phelps, Linda Canon who is continuing to coordinate our volunteers, and Ross Porter, who recently was appointed to be our new Executive Administrator. We very much appreciate all they have done to advance the work of our society, and to serve our San Diego music community.

We welcome two new and returning trustees to our board: They are Jack Lasher and Dr. Richard Griswold, D.D.S. Further information about them is found elsewhere in this issue. I look forward to working with them in the years ahead.

An exciting list of artists for the 2011 International Summer Organ Festival is elsewhere in this newsletter. Already we are receiving sponsorship gifts for individual concerts. Total concert sponsorship is \$7,000 with co-sponsorships beginning at \$500. Gifts in memory of a loved one can also be made. This will be another great summer, indeed.

We are building our e-mail list so that we may send you important information beyond the Stop Tab. Please be sure to list your e-mail address on your membership envelope if you have not already done so.

May this Springtime be one of joy, satisfaction, and good health for each of you. I look forward to seeing you at the pavilion.

*Ronald De Fields*



**Be sure  
to friend us  
on facebook!**





# Presenting the 2011 Summer Organ Festival



**JUNE 20**

Annual "Bach's Supper"

**Carol Williams**, *San Diego Civic Organist*

"Celebration" with **The House of Scotland Pipe Band**,  
**The Finest City Brass Herald Trumpets** and **The Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral**

7:30 P.M., free admission

**JUNE 27**

**Jonathan Ortloff**

*2008 Winner: Young Theater  
Organist Competition*

American Theater Organ Society

7:30 P.M., free admission



**JULY 4**

**Walter Strongy**

*"A Premiere American  
Concert Organist"*

Theater and Classical

An Independence Day Celebration

7:30 P.M., free admission



**JULY 11**

**Scott Dettra**

*Organist of The National Cathedral,  
Washington, DC*

7:30 P.M., free admission



**JULY 18**

**Sal Soria**

*Organist of The Cathedral of  
Our Lady of The Angels  
Los Angeles*

7:30 P.M., free admission



**JULY 25**

**Helmut Luksch**

*Austrian Concert Organist*

7:30 P.M., free admission

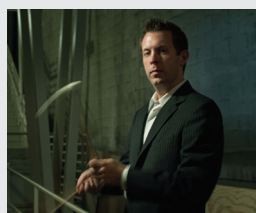
**AUGUST 1**

**Christopher Houlihan**

*"Rising Star" from New York City's  
Juilliard School*

*U.S. And European Prize Winner*

7:30 P.M., free admission



**AUGUST 8**

**Robert Plimpton**, *San Diego Civic Organist Emeritus*  
*International Concert Organist*

"Music For Organ and Percussion"  
Accompanied by Percussionist Jason Ginter.

7:30 P.M., free admission

**AUGUST 15**

**David Arcus**

*Organist, Duke University Chapel*

U.S., U.K. and European Tours

7:30 P.M., free admission



**AUGUST 22**

Silent Movie Night

**Dennis James**

*Popular Concert Theater Organist*

Silent movie "Peter Pan" 1924, Starring  
Betty Bronson and Ernest Torrence

7:30 P.M., free admission



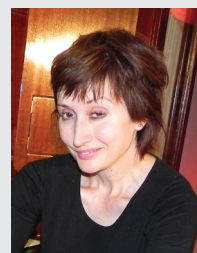
**AUGUST 29**

**Carol Williams**,

*San Diego Civic Organist and friends*

"The Best of Hollywood"  
A Festive Grand Finale

7:30 P.M., free admission



## New Trustees

Trustee Richard Griswold is a retired dentist with a love for organ music among many passions that include snow skiing, boating, and piloting aircraft. After a successful career pursuing dental surgery in Mariposa and South Lake Tahoe, Dr. Griswold moved to San Diego in 2001. In September 2002 he married his high school sweetheart and since moving here has discovered the awesome Spreckels Organ. He volunteers regularly as a greeter and is looking forward to leadership as a Trustee. Currently Dr. Griswold is at work on his third book, "Doctor, Name Any One Drug that Cures Any Disease," exploring the curious fact that when doctors go on strike, fewer people die!



Jack Lasher returns to the Spreckels Organ Society Board of Trustees to a warm welcome from all who know his unique mix of musical knowledge, administrative know-how, and wit. An award-winning musician beginning in his childhood home of El Centro, Jack has played a central role in San Diego's chapter of the American Guild of Organists and other local arts organizations. With a bachelor's degree from University of Redlands and a master's from Claremont Graduate University, he has served on the City of San Diego's Commission for Arts and Culture review panels and conducted choirs, overseen musical performances, and taught at the post-secondary level. Jack is currently the organist at the Seventh Church of Christ, Scientist in Pacific Beach and offers instruction in voice and music.



## Attention Organ Students: Scholarship Auditions

Thanks to several generous bequests a number of years ago, the San Diego chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) is able to fund a number of organ study scholarships. In cooperation with the Spreckels Organ Society, auditions are held annually and are open to organ students of any age, as well as to piano students interested in auditioning to receive an introductory set of organ lessons. This year's scholarship auditions are set for May 14 at First Unitarian Church in San Diego. For repertoire guidelines, rules, and an applications, please go to [www.agosd.org/education.htm](http://www.agosd.org/education.htm).

All students who play well in the auditions receive scholarships for organ study. The Spreckels Organ Society recognizes the top performers with additional scholarship funds and the opportunity to play before a large audience. This year's outstanding students will play at the Sunday afternoon concert on June 5.

The organ-specific scholarship program is unique in the United States because of the large number of tuition grants awarded each year. Students who have received scholarships for organ study have gone on to become church organists, concert artists, organ professors, and great fans of the King of Instruments!

AGO aims to "encourage every student from the earliest level of keyboard study to play the organ" and has established a "progression of repertoire and skill development which takes students from the beginning level to the standard literature". Students participating in successive years demonstrate growing skills and musical development. More than 30 students are currently studying organ in San Diego. For the AGO scholarships, at least 20 students usually audition.

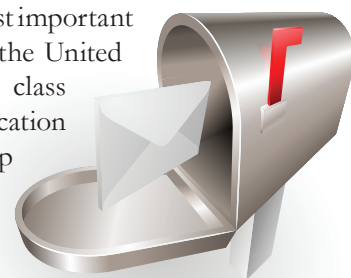
Three students who graduated from high school in 2009 after receiving scholarships multiple times are now in college are majoring in organ. A 2007 graduate, who also received multiple scholarships, has a double major in organ and biology.

One scholarship recipient in 2010 filled an unusual break in one of the Monday evening Summer Organ Festival programs. Power concerns caused a break in the programming, and she volunteered to play one of her audition selections, which was received with a spontaneous standing ovation from the audience!

Chelsea Chen, who received scholarships in 1999, 2000, and 2001, went on to receive her B.M. and M.M. from the Juilliard School, was awarded a Fulbright and completed the Artist Diploma at Yale University. She is now an international concert organist with Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc. ■

## Did you get our letter?

In early April the Spreckels Organ Society sent a letter to recent members encouraging membership renewal. We can't do it without you! The members of the Spreckels Organ Society have the satisfaction of supporting one of the most important musical and outreach programs for the pipe organ in the United States and possibly the world. Large audiences, first class programs, a magical summer festival, and musical education and support are all part of what your membership payment is supporting. Thank you for helping the Voice of Balboa Park to sing out strongly every year! Join online at [www.sosorgan.org](http://www.sosorgan.org). ■





# New Console Update

The new console was inaugurated at the Sunday concert on January 2, 2011 that celebrated the ninety-fifth anniversary of the great Spreckels Outdoor Organ.

One of the new features of the console is the fact that it is mounted on a unique “hover-craft” platform. A small blower inside the console supplies air pressure that allows the console to glide around the surface of the stage on a cushion of air. The platform has the added benefit that allows the bench to remain in position during the move.

The Console Committee spent time to carefully develop a master plan for possible additions to the organ. Two additional stop terraces were added on either side of the keyboards to accommodate twenty new stops or features. It was the desire of the Committee that the new stops would blend seamlessly into the original symphonic concepts of the Spreckels Organ.

Visiting artists have often commented on the great versatility of our instrument and the planned additions will yet again expand its versatility.

As you look at the console you will see the new blank stop-keys. But if you look even closer, you will notice that they are not blank but are actually engraved with the proposed stop name except the engraving has not yet been inked-in. These indicate the master planned additions to the organ. Among these you will find.....

- ▶ Centennial Tuba - to provide a sonorous crown to the organ.
- ▶ Geigen Celeste and 4' Violina Celeste - to enrich the Choir Organ
- ▶ Solo Vox Humana - to provide contrast to our existing diminutive Vox Humana
- ▶ Crommorne - to provide another distinctive solo voice
- ▶ Gamba and Celeste - to introduce string texture to the Great Organ
- ▶ A Persian Roll Cymbal - to compliment the existing Crash Cymbal
- ▶ Xylophone and Glockenspiel (Yes, Bach had a Glockenspiel on his organ)
- ▶ Toy Counter and Sound effects - to accompany silent movies

Each of these additions will add distinctive new colors and voices to the organ. If you have an interest in making these dreams come true, please contact President Ron De Fields or Curators Lyle Blackinton or Dale Sorenson for further information. ■



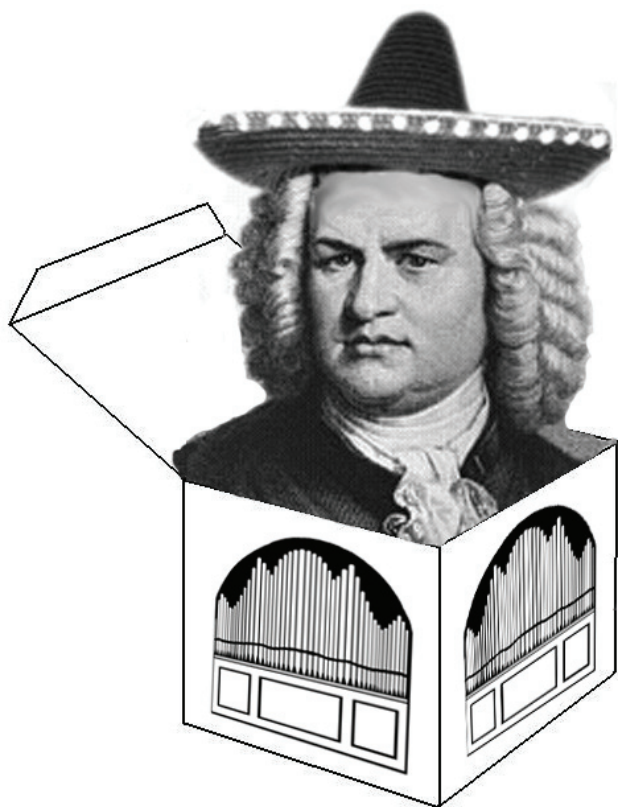
Photo courtesy Bob Lang

A gift to the City of San Diego from the Spreckels Organ Society, made possible by contributions from Las Patronas and the Legler Benbough Foundation.



Photo courtesy Bob Lang

Taking a bow (from left): organ builders Jesse Cepeda, Dale Sorenson, and Lyle Blackinton.



**BACH'S SUPPER  
TACO FIESTA  
MONDAY,  
JUNE 20, 2011**

Help us fire up the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual International Organ Festival with the traditional "Bach's Supper" at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion!  
- \$30 per person  
(\$25 for children 12 and under).

**Taco Buffet and Beverages Served at 5:00 p.m.**  
Concert Begins at 7:30 p.m. – Dr. Carol Williams, Organist

**REGISTRATION**

**DEADLINE JUNE 15.**

**COMPLETE THIS FORM**

**AND MAIL WITH YOUR**

**PAYMENT TO:**

Spreckels Organ Society  
1549 El Prado, Suite 10  
San Diego, CA 92101

For more information  
contact Jack Lasher:  
[john.lasher5@gmail.com](mailto:john.lasher5@gmail.com)  
or (tel) 858-483-1326

Please reserve for \_\_\_\_ adults at \$30 each. Total: \_\_\_\_  
Please reserve for \_\_\_\_ children at \$25 each. Total: \_\_\_\_  
I cannot attend, but here is my tax-deductible  
donation to the Spreckels Organ Society: \_\_\_\_  
Renew \_\_\_\_ memberships (\$30 minimum) \_\_\_\_  
Total payment: \_\_\_\_

Please LIST THE NAMES of everyone in your party on a  
separate sheet and enclose with this payment form.  
Spreckels Organ Society: 501(c)3 Tax ID: #33-0299072

My Name: \_\_\_\_  
My Address: \_\_\_\_  
City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment:**

☐ Check (*Payable to:* Spreckels Organ Society)

☐ Credit Card # \_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_

Circle One: VISA MasterCard Amex

Cardholder Signature: \_\_\_\_



# San Diego's Civic Organist: A Vital Position

April 28, 2011

## **PRESERVING A LEGACY**

Since the last major renovation of the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in the 1980s, the non-profit Spreckels Organ Society has been a partner with the City of San Diego in programming and promoting the great Spreckels Organ in Balboa Park. One of the mainstays of this partnership has been the City's commitment to fund the San Diego Civic Organist position since 1926. Dr. Carol Williams, the seventh person to hold this post, was hired by the City after an international search and has performed with distinction since Oct 21, 2001. The support in our partnership with the San Diego Park and Recreation Department has been outstanding

## **RENEWAL OF CIVIC ORGANIST'S CONTRACT**

In recent weeks, as the Organist's current contract was coming to expiration, a renewal was negotiated. When this proposed contract renewal was placed before your City Council committee on Culture and Natural Resources, you questioned whether support should come from the Park and Recreation department or another agency, while re-stating the value of the city's support for organ concerts in the park.

## **A VIBRANT PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**

The public depends on the City of San Diego to fund the post of Civic Organist. The City's direct payment of approximately \$29,000 per year is augmented by a second post of Artistic Director for the Spreckels Organ Society, resulting in professional-level pay and health benefits. It is vital that this public-private partnership be continued, regardless of which entity at the City is charged with this expense.

The Spreckels Organ Society is a strong private-non-profit partner in the fulfillment of the original Deed of Gift to program the Spreckels Organ and Pavilion for the "free use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people." Private funds and the volunteer work of the Society more than match the City's outlays to program and promote the Spreckels Organ. The Society can do no more financially than it already is doing.

## **A BELOVED CIVIC TREASURE**

More than 100,000 people each year enjoy the free organ concerts, and thousands of them make freewill donations to make sure they continue. Almost 1,000 San Diegans are current members of the Spreckels Organ Society and thousands of people worldwide over the years have made donations to support this cultural treasure. In January a new state-of-the-art console, purchased with gifts from Las Patronas and the Legler Benbough

Foundation, was given to the City to ready the Spreckels Organ for its second century. These donors fully expect there to be a Civic Organist to expertly utilize this \$150,000 gift. Plans are already underway for special programming during the Society's 25th Anniversary in 2012 and the Centennial of the organ in 2015.

## **CALL TO ACTION**

The Spreckels Organ Society urges The City of San Diego to promptly renew its commitment to maintaining the post of Civic Organist so that the great and historic Spreckels Organ plays for the future enjoyment of all.

Sincerely,

*Ronald De Fields*

Ronald De Fields, President  
The Board of Trustees

SPRECKELS ORGAN SOCIETY  
HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY  
1549 EL PRADO, SUITE 10  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-1661

*ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED*

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
San Diego, CA  
Permit #2775

**SPRECKELS ORGAN SOCIETY**

1549 EL PRADO, SUITE 10  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-1661  
(619) 702-8138 / FAX (619) 702-8128  
SOSORGAN@GMAIL.COM / SOSORGAN.ORG

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Dr. Carol Williams, San Diego Civic Organist

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Executive Board**

Chair of the Board - Vivian Evenson  
President - Ronald De Fields  
Vice President - Stephen Oggel  
Treasurer - Clifford McMillan  
Secretary - Donald P. Snowden

Charles Ballinger	Dwight Gordon
Edward Barr	Richard Griswold
Mitch Beauchamp	George Hardy
James Buckles	Jared Jacobsen
Andrea Card	Frank Kozak
John Dapolito	Jack Lasher
Ralph Fear	Paulette Leahy
Bill Galante	Marion Persons

Randy Ward

**EX-OFFICIO TRUSTEES**

Lyle Blackinton - Curator  
Dale Sorenson - Associate Curator

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / STOPTAB EDITOR**  
Ross Porter

**STOPTAB GRAPHIC DESIGN & PRINTING**  
Rick Bays

## Read your StopTab in Color!

You can read the StopTab online and enjoy it in Color!

Brilliant color photos of the organ, Spreckels artists, and the beauty of Balboa Park are just part of the story.

By reading the StopTab online, you can save postage expenses and make your membership dollars go further for quality programs and outreach.

Make sure that the membership information you give us includes your E-Mail address, and we will send you the StopTab electronically ... in Color!

PS - it's great for the environment, too.

Sign up at [www.sosorgan.org](http://www.sosorgan.org)

