

# STOPTAB

SPRING 2010

## Summer Festival 2010

June 21 - ROBERT PLIMPTON  
Civic Organist Emeritus  
"Bach's supper" prior to concert

June 28 - ISABELLE DEMERS  
"Dazzling" Canadian Organist

July 5 - WALT STRONY  
American Theater Organist

July 12 - DAVID SANGER  
Famous British Organist

July 19 - CHELSEA CHEN  
"San Diego's Own" Concert Organist

July 26 - KALEVI KIVINIEMI  
Amazing Finnish Concert Organist

August 2 - JELANI EDDINGTON  
2001 Theater Organist Of The Year

August 9 - JAMES DAVID CHRISTIE  
Acclaimed U.S. Concert Organist

August 16 - KEENAN BOSWELL & NICOLE COCHRAN  
"Rising Stars" from Juilliard

August 23 - DENNIS JAMES' MOVIE NIGHT  
Concert Theater Organist

August 30 - CAROL WILLIAMS' JAZZ NIGHT  
San Diego's Civic Organist  
With Dave Scott and Friends



### From the President

Greetings from the organ pavilion and Balboa Park. Spring is in the air and flowers are blooming everywhere. 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 2010 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 2009 reached 1,060 active members. It was the highest number in many years, and we are so pleased to have you all "part of the family". 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 a 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.

Three valued trustees have just completed their six-year terms of service. They are Jack Lasher, Randy Truax, and Tanya Chen.

*continued on page two*

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

continued from page one

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 three new and returning trustees to our board: They are George Hardy, Dr. Leroy Phelps, Ph.D., and Andrea Card. Further information about them is found elsewhere in this issue.

The listing of artists for the 2010 International Summer Organ Festival was sent to you recently. Already we are receiving sponsorship gifts for individual concerts. Total concert sponsorship is \$6,000 with co-sponsorships beginning at \$500. This will be another exciting summer, indeed.

Our e-mail list is almost ready for us to 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

**ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS****ARE COMING UP**

by Jared Jacobsen

Once again, the Spreckels Organ Society will join in partnership with the San Diego Chapter of the American Guild of Organists to hold annual scholarship auditions, providing financial support to encourage further organ study. These are open to organ students of any age, as well as to piano students interested in auditioning for an introductory set of organ lessons. The auditions will be held on Saturday, May 8th, at Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw Street in San Diego, and the winners will be presented in an Honors Concert on the Spreckels Organ on Sunday, June 20th at 2:00 p.m.

Repertoire requirements, application forms, and other specific information may be found on the AGO-San Diego website, [www.agosd.org](http://www.agosd.org) (click on "Education/Scholarships"); or contact Leslie Wolf Robb, AGO-San Diego Education Chair, at 858-272-4338 or [lesliewolfrobb@mac.com](mailto:lesliewolfrobb@mac.com).

Both of these exciting scholarship events are part of our Society's commitment to nurturing organists of the future, as we strive to further the vision of the Spreckels brothers: "To the people of San Diego and the people of all the world this pavilion and organ are dedicated".

**INQUIRING MINDS..... well, you know the rest**

by Edward Barr, Historian

America declared war on Germany, April 6, 1917. England and the U. S. were allies. World War I ended November 11, 1918.

Each country's pride was shown by the performance of England's National Anthem at the start of every public organ concert and the U.S. National Anthem at the end. This tradition lasted for 80 years, when "America the Beautiful" replaced England's Anthem. No reason for the change was given.

**FROM THE CIVIC ORGANIST**

Carol Williams

Dear Friends,

I hope all is going well this year – time flies when you are having fun!

The weekend of February 21st was the fourth concert in the Bark in Balboa Park series where all the funds go to the Humane Society of San Diego. The event is becoming quite an occasion and we received loads of publicity. This concert brings in new friends to hear our great Spreckels organ and is therefore a wonderful outreach concert. Plus, I love to see all the gorgeous animals that come along to the concert.

The Summer Organ Festival is taking shape beautifully and if you visit the Spreckels website you can see a fine line-up of artists. It is going to be a superb year. The concert programs are coming in and we will be treated to such a variety of music.

This week, I am off to the UK for a concert tour of six concerts. The first concert is at the Salomons Manor House at Tunbridge Wells in Kent where there is a fine Welte organ. This has been fully restored and looks amazing. Then I am up to Chester, then to London, then to Devon, then to Southampton and finally to Gloucester Cathedral. Quite a trip and hopefully the snow will have melted by then! Some of these venues will be recorded for our TourBus DVD series. Talking of which, the fourth DVD in the series, "TourBus goes to Paris" has just been released – on this DVD we filmed at Notre-Dame Cathedral and St. Sulpice. Full details are on my website [www.melcot.com](http://www.melcot.com)

Well, back to practicing

Best wishes

Carol

**SOS BRUNCH AND ORGAN CONCERT****COMING UP**

by Randy Ward, Chair, Events Committee

Don't miss our annual Spreckels Organ Society member brunch and private organ concert Saturday, April 10, at 10:00 am. Enjoy a delicious brunch catered by The Prado, an up-close and personal concert with Jared Jacobsen, an explanation and demonstration of the mechanics of the instrument with Curator Lyle Blackinton, and a guided tour inside the great Spreckels Organ. Family and friends are welcome as well. See the flyer insert included in this StopTab for more information.

BE SURE TO SAVE THESE DATES AS WELL

Monday, June 21

Annual Bach's Supper/summer concert series kick-off  
– this year with a Mexican theme.

Monday, August 16

Annual Membership Meeting and Volunteer Recognition  
Saturday, October 16 – Organ Crawl to Los Angeles

. . . . Stay tuned for more details. . . .

## **ORGAN SOCIETY RECEIVES FUNDING FOR NEW CONSOLE**

by Julie Hudson, Grants Committee

Excitement marked the celebration at the Las Patronas Awards Ceremony. The La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club was a welcoming setting for this luncheon. Lyle Blackinton used “generosity” as he noted the enthusiasm of the gifts and dedication of persons making allocations possible.

Lyle accepted the gift of \$75,000.00 towards replacing the organ console. With matching funds from Legler Benbough Foundation, the new console is assured. Lyle, the organ curator, explained the need for replacement of the present console, which is the third one to grace the Spreckels Pavilion.

Carol Williams, Civic Organist, confirmed the unique presence of the organ and pavilion as a significant destination in Balboa Park. In her gracious manner, Carol invited all to come to the park and speak with her following the concerts.

Both Las Patronas and the Legler Benbough Foundation are recognized for many gifts to community organizations. With these allocations, they support the vision of the Spreckels gift of music, to the people of San Diego, and their visitors.

## **CONSTRUCTION OF FOURTH SPRECKELS CONSOLE APPROVED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES!**

by Jared Jacobsen, New Console Committee Chair

As the centennial of the great Spreckels Organ approaches, your Board of Trustees announces a milestone: the commissioning of a new organ console, the fourth control center built for the world’s largest fully-outdoor musical instrument in its ninety-five-year history. The original console, installed in 1914 for the organ’s dedication on New Year’s Eve ushering in 1915, featured the Austin Organ Company’s patented all-electric design that was a relatively new concept at the time. Using their electro-mechanical tripper-style combination action which offered utter reliability, the console was very compact and allowed a luxurious number of combination pistons and other registrational aids, far more than were usually found on the consoles of other builders of the era. In addition, it (and the subsequent 1935 and 1981 consoles) did not require air pressure to operate the console mechanism, which meant that the electric console could be fully movable around the entire stage of the Organ Pavilion.

In the early years, nothing beyond routine tuning and maintenance was necessary to keep the instrument in top shape. However, by the time of the 1935 California-Pacific Exposition it was in need of serious attention. (Remember that from 1915 until 1932 the organ was played in concert every day. In fact, when Humphrey John Stewart, San Diego’s first Civic Organist, died in 1932 he had played the amazing total of 4,375 recitals on the original console!) At the request of Civic Organist II Royal Brown, the Austin Company built a new four-manual console in 1935 which included a few blank stoptabs for potential additions to the organ’s then-46 ranks.

By the 1970s the second console was showing its age, as were some of the chest mechanisms, and the pipework was in need of a major cleaning. In the words of Curator Lyle Blackinton, “the organ was fully functional but reliability was becoming an issue.” A major restoration of the organ (and the entire pavilion) was undertaken in 1979 and completed in 1981. Civic Organist V Jared Jacobsen and Lyle Blackinton collaborated on the design of another new console to be built by the Austin firm. In accordance with a master plan which Lyle and Jared developed, the third console provided more blank stopkeys to accommodate new ranks to be added at a later date. Once again, this new console could be no wider than the 1914 original because of the limited space in its storage location between the giant, five-ton roll-up door and the façade wall; this restriction called for some intricate planning of the stop tablet layout to include the future additions. (In fact, when this console arrived at the Pavilion it was found to be a half-inch wider than planned, making for some anxious moments, and an even tighter fit in its new home!)

Now as we approach the Spreckels Organ’s one-hundredth anniversary, the 1981 console is beginning to show its age. Almost all of 1981’s proposed pipework additions have been realized and the combination action was converted to a solid-state system in 1991 and upgraded again in 2003; this conversion made available multiple levels of combination memory for the many more organists who now play our instrument each year (and who are inevitably taking their toll on manual keys, pedals, stoptabs, and pushbuttons). On a historical note, the original, and still functional, Austin electro-mechanical combination action which was essentially unchanged from 1914 through 1981, was removed intact, preserved, and is now stored in the Organ Pavilion.

The Spreckels Organ Society’s Grants Committee, under the enthusiastic leadership of Trustee Julie Hudson, went to work last year and speedily secured funding from Las Patronas of San Diego (their largest-ever gift to a single project) and a matching grant from the Benbough Foundation (see the companion story in this issue) to cover the \$150,000 cost of a new console. The Board next chartered a New Console Committee, whose team of Civic Organist VII Carol Williams; Curators Lyle Blackinton and Dale Sorenson; and Trustees Ed Barr, Julie Hudson, Don Snowden, and Jared Jacobsen (Civic Organist V) immediately went to work. After much lengthy and probing discussion, we recommended to the Board, and the Board unanimously approved, that the San Diego organ-building firm of L. W. Blackinton & Associates be commissioned to build the new fourth console. Although the Austin Organ Company is still a viable company in Hartford, Connecticut, it was felt that Lyle and Dale know the Spreckels Organ and its unique mechanical, tonal, and spatial needs better than literally anyone else in the world. Lyle’s immaculate and fully-equipped shop in El Cajon has produced hand-built instruments, large



and small, which are greatly respected in the American organ-building community and beyond for their tonal excellence, thoughtful design, utter reliability, superb craftsmanship (including beautiful wood-working), and practicality of maintenance.

Our committee worked first with Dr. Carol Williams to gain her perspective on the layout of a new control center, as the artist who connects with the Spreckels Organ on a daily basis. Lyle Blackinton and Dale Sorenson provided invaluable input from their conversation with, and direct observation of the playing of, the many international artists who have appeared on our Summer Organ Festivals over the last twenty years. We sought the counsel of the other three living Civic Organists (Douglas Ian Duncan, IV; Jared Jacobsen, V; and Robert Plimpton, VI). And, as was done in 1979-1981, we've again planned for some pipework additions. Two new bolsters of stop-keys on either side of the manuals will allow future control of acoustical colors carefully selected to enhance, but not fundamentally change, the unique Spreckels "sound", which continues intact as a monument to American concert organ building in 1915. It is our hope that many of these new colors can be realized as further Centennial projects. And to honor a strong request by many of our European performers, the new console will have a sequencing combination-control system with the "next" and "back" pistons with which these artists are familiar. Once again, the dimensions of the new console will need to match the footprint of all of its predecessors in order to fit behind the great steel door. Lyle is also committed to making it look, and feel, like the Austin consoles which have been hailed by generations of performers as being so comfortable to play.

When will this exciting project be completed? The design layout is done, materials are being ordered, and Lyle is hoping to begin installation after the end of this summer's International Organ Festival, with a gala dedication event sometime around the organ's birthday on New Year's Eve. We are deeply indebted to Las Patronas and the Benbough Foundation, and the vision of the Spreckels Society's Board of Trustees, for making all of this possible!

## Our New Trustees!

**Andrea L. Card** was born in Indiana into a musical family: Grandmother was an organist, grandfather was a bass soloist and music critic for the Chicago Tribune, mother and father were both singers and played instruments. Andrea studied piano for 15 years and played cornet and French horn in the high school band. She has also been in many choirs and currently sings in the First United Methodist Church Chancel Choir.

She graduated from Albion College, Albion, Michigan with a B.A. Degree in Psychology and Biology. Andrea is a member of American Guild of Organists – National and San Diego Chapter and the Spreckels Organ Society. Since 1999 she has been employed full-time by First United Methodist of San Diego as Administrative Services Coordinator, and then as Memorial Service Coordinator, Mailings, Child Care.

My AGO membership has afforded me unique opportunities to listen to organ playing with a more intelligent aspect of how the instrument works, the great skill that is needed to perform, and a more educated knowledge of the greatest organ works. There is no life without music.



*Photos by Bob Lang*



### **Leroy Phelps, Ph.D.**

earned his Bachelors's degree from The Ohio State University and his Doctorate from University of Southern California.

Lee came to San Diego in 1966 to take a job in microbiology at San Diego State University where he worked until retirement in 1990.

Lee is not a musician but he first heard the organ as a teenager. In 1967 he began attending concerts in Balboa Park. Douglas Duncan was the civic organist and Lee decided that the Spreckels Organ sounded the way an organ should. He began attending the summer organ festival in 1989 and joined the Spreckels Organ Society in 1990. He did some volunteer work as a greeter and was asked to join the Board in 2003. He served six years as a trustee and has continued to volunteer as needed. He is now returning to the Board of Trustees for another three year term.



**George Hardy** is a 30+ year resident of San Diego County where he has been

a practicing attorney. All but 3 years of his career have been with the U.S. Attorney's Office as a criminal prosecutor and appellate attorney. With a stint in the Bay Area and later in Europe, his career has been varied and interesting. George's interest in music goes back to childhood. He has studied the piano, the clarinet, and voice over the years and sang in many musical organizations at Yale University where he received his undergraduate degree. In San Diego, he has been an active participant in several choirs, including the First Presbyterian Church choir, the LaJolla Civic Chorus, and the San Diego Master Chorale. He was on the board of the Master Chorale on two different occasions.

George was pleased to recall that when Vivian Evenson and Bob Plimpton began discussing the creation of the Spreckels Organ Society, they included him in their thoughts and plans. As a result, he was one of the founding board members of SOS, and he enjoyed participating in its early years of creation and development. He has also recently been a co-sponsor of two of the international organists during the summer festival. George is honored to return to the board, now that SOS has become such an important participant in the cultural life of Balboa Park, San Diego, California, and indeed, the international organ scene.

# Your Invitation to Brunch, a Concert, and a Private Tour

## From the Spreckels Organ Society - Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 10 a.m.

**BRUNCH** catered by the Prado Restaurant at the House of Hospitality Ballroom.

### **ORGAN CONCERT**

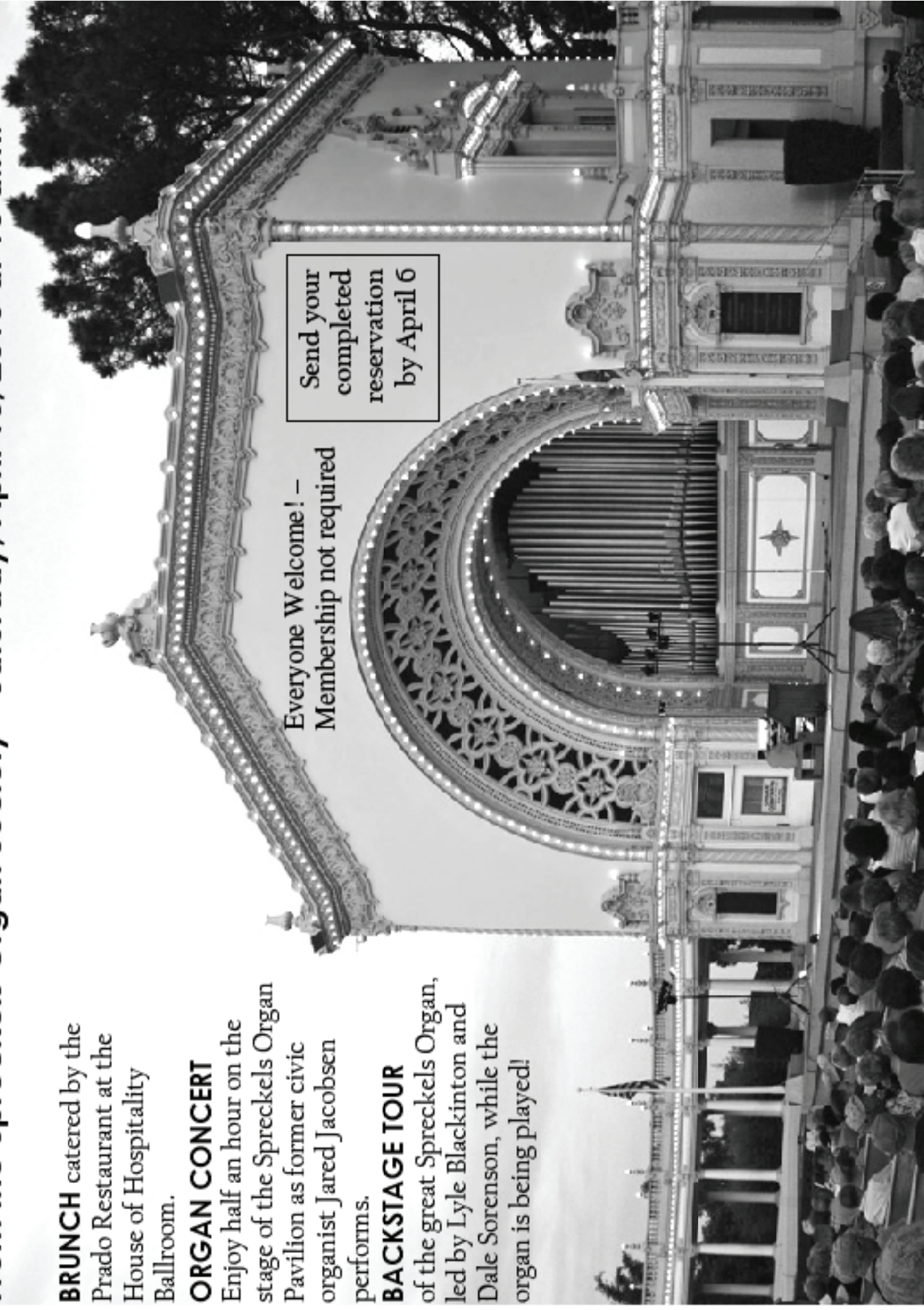
Enjoy half an hour on the stage of the Spreckels Organ Pavilion as former civic organist Jared Jacobsen performs.

### **BACKSTAGE TOUR**

of the great Spreckels Organ, led by Lyle Blackinton and Dale Sorenson, while the organ is being played!

Everyone Welcome! -  
Membership not required

Send your  
completed  
reservation  
by April 6





# Below: Cut and Return to Save Your Seat!

## Return to:

Jack Lasher  
2756 Arianne Dr #131  
San Diego, CA 92117

**Please RSVP  
By April 6**

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Method of Payment:

☐ Check (Payable to Spreckels Organ Society)

☐ Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ brunches at \$40 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Children: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$25 each \_\_\_\_\_

I cannot attend, but here is \_\_\_\_\_

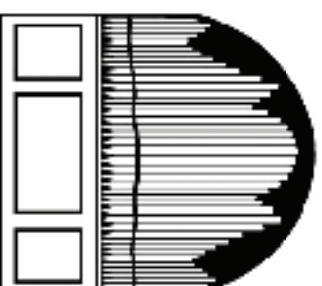
my tax-deductible donation to the \_\_\_\_\_

Spreckels Organ Society \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## LIST NAMES OF ATTENDEES:

Spreckels Organ Society non-profit  
501(c) 3 Tax ID #33-0299072



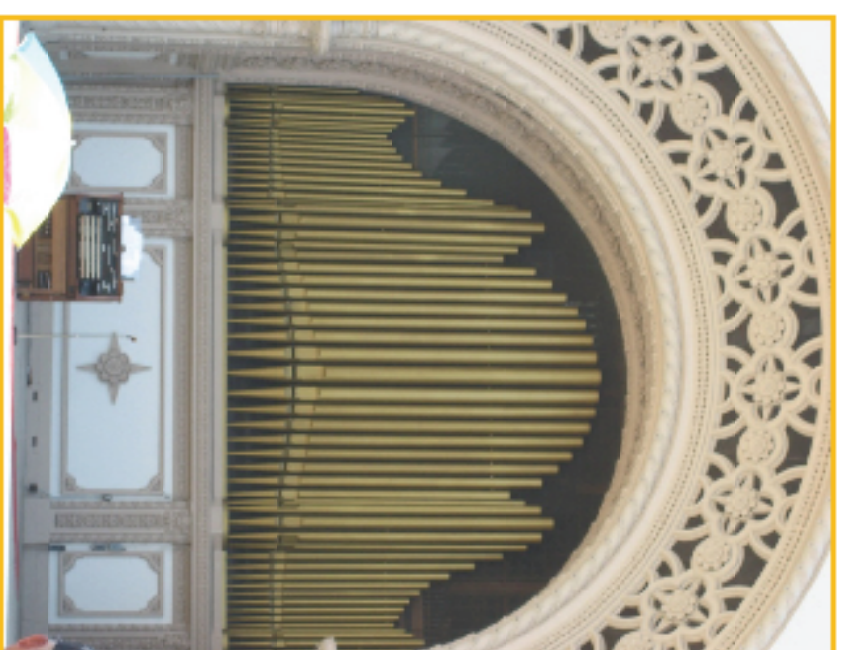
**See you at**

**10 a.m. on**

**Saturday, April 10**

**At the Prado**

**Ballroom!**



## THE SPRECKELS ORGAN SOCIETY

Founded in 1988 as a non-profit California corporation, the mission of the Spreckels Organ Society is to preserve, program and promote the Spreckels Organ as a world treasure for all people. With hundreds of members world-wide, and governed by an all-volunteer Board of Trustees, the Society presents more than 100 concerts a year. Through vigorous publicity, the organ attracts more than 100,000 people annually, including more than 11,000 fifth graders to the Educational Outreach Program. The Society depends upon the support of its member-friends to continue its day-to-day mission. You are helping fulfill the vision of the Spreckels Brothers to inspire, uplift and enrich society through great music, FREE to all.

**WWW.SOSORGAN.COM**

**SOS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2010**

is now underway. Your renewal will help the organization to forestall future cuts as a result of the economic downturn and subsequent revenue shortfall.

You may also wish to consider a membership as a gift for Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries, or other special occasions.

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### SPRECKELS ORGAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

*Our mission is to preserve, program and promote  
the world's largest outdoor pipe organ.*

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL ENSURE.....**

- ✓ MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENTS OF THE ORGAN.
- ✓ 52 SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERTS.
- ✓ ENRICHING AND EDUCATIONAL CONCERTS FOR FIFTH-GRADERS.
- ✓ SUMMER MONDAY EVENING ORGAN FESTIVAL CONCERTS.
- ✓ SPONSORSHIP OF ORGAN STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS.

**BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP.....**

- ✓ DISCOUNTS IN OUR GIFT SHOP.
- ✓ STOPTAB NEWSLETTER.
- ✓ INVITATIONS TO SPECIAL EVENTS.
- ✓ FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION.

*You will ensure the future of San Diego's treasure for generations to come.*

.....  
cut off and include with check

Mr. &amp; Mrs.

Mr., Ms.

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|----------------|-----------|----------------|
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| First Name     | Last Name | Date           |
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|                         |                 |                             |               |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Tutti (Lifetime)</b> | <b>\$ 5,000</b> | <b>Magnaton</b>             | <b>\$ 100</b> |
| <b>Spreckels Circle</b> | <b>2,500</b>    | <b>Great</b>                | <b>60</b>     |
| <b>Bombarde</b>         | <b>1,000</b>    | <b>Coupler (Duo/Family)</b> | <b>35</b>     |
| <b>State Trumpets</b>   | <b>500</b>      | <b>Solo (Individual)</b>    | <b>25</b>     |
| <b>Pleno</b>            | <b>250</b>      | <b>Full-time Student</b>    | <b>10</b>     |

Mail to: Spreckels Organ Society  
1549 El Prado, Suite 10  
San Diego, CA 92101-1661

**PLEASE  
RENEW  
YOUR  
SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP**



**TODAY**



SPRECKELS ORGAN SOCIETY  
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**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Dr. Carol Williams

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Chair of the Board - Vivian Evenson  
President - Ronald De Fields  
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Secretary - Donald P. Snowden

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Dale Sorenson - Associate Curator

**EDITOR**

Edward S. Barr

**DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS /**  
**STOPTAB GRAPHIC DESIGNER**  
Joe Rodriguez

*Calendar*  
LOOKING AHEAD  
SUNDAYS at 2



MARCH 14 - Ty Woodward  
Guest Organist

MARCH 21 - Jared Jacobsen  
Former Civic Organist  
San Diego Children's Choir

MARCH 28 - Wayne Seppala  
Guest Organist

APRIL 4, 11, 18, 25  
Carol Williams  
San Diego Civic Organist