

Tonight's performer is the only one in this season's series that I've not seen or heard in person. I've heard of her many accolades and seen her in several flattering pictures but tonight was the night to "make my day". Quoting from a past review in "The American Organist" as it describes this night's performance to a "T", "Dr. Williams plays with a passion and imagination, eliciting sounds that are alternately grandiose, ethereal, exotic, and colorful. Her technical facility is matched by her exemplary artistry." I can add only one more thing in one word, "charming".

A perfect choice to start the evening was a musical composition designed to exhibit the performer's touch and technique, emphasizing the dexterity of the performer's fingers in a contrapuntal compositional technique and was composed by Johann Sebastian Bach and entitled, **Toccata and Fugue in D-Minor**. (Just quoting the dictionary this time.)

Setting the format of the evening's concert, Carol, if I may, went straight into her next selection as she would do several times tonight, and that turned out to be **Tico -Tico no Fuba** by the Brazilian composer Zequinha de Abreu in 1917 in an outstanding arrangement.

Next, as Carol begins to build rapport, asked all the veterans to stand and be recognized after which she dedicated the next piece to them and was **Fanfare for the Common Man** by Aron Copeland in 1942.

The first of the next two contrasting pieces was **Waltz of the Flowers** from "The Nutcracker Suite" by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky in 1892. This was followed by **Hey Jude** by Paul McCartney and John Lennon of the Beatles fame in 1968. I thought I heard an interesting bridge between the two but was corrected in that it was the not often heard intro to the song. You learn something every day.

Carol said that the next selection was the first time she had played it on a theatre organ. The piece, **Flight of the Bumblebee** was composed in 1899-1900 by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov for his opera "The Tale of Tsar Saltan", and again Carol shows off her stuff.

The next two pieces were composed by the lady herself in 2015 and can be heard on her "Just Carol" album. The first is about her dog and pictures of same were shown on the screen as she played, in a novelty tune style, **Dietrich's Dilemma, Op.17**. The second piece was **Major Something, Non Fat Latte, Op.4**.

The following two sets left me a bit confused. To start with Carol stated that little is known about the composer, Valente Morales, and that he composed the piece about 500 years ago and that he wrote it before he died. I agree because I could uncover nothing. I believe the title is **Valente the Dance** but not sure of this either. In any case, her arrangement of same was fine with me. She stopped at the end, received some applause then played something but do not know what it was but from it she went directly into her wonderful **Gershwin Medley**. The following are those tunes: A) **Strike Up the Band**, B) **Liza? (All the Clouds'll Roll Away)**, C) **Summertime**, D) **Fascinating Rhythm**, E) **Oh, Lady Be Good!** F) **I Got Rhythm**, and G) **I Got Plenty o'Nuttin**.

The first of the next two sets a wonderful piece composed by Howard Blake for the 1982 animated film of Raymond Briggs' 1978 children's book "The Snowman" and is called **Walking in The Air**. It made me want to see the movie. Then comes another Christmas themed piece, the most published Christmas hymn in North America by George Frideric Handel, **Joy to the World**. My comment on this one is that it was played as it should be played.

Sabre Dance is up next. It is from composer Aram Khachaturian's ballet "Gayane" in 1942 where the dancers display their skill with sabers. Then taking us into intermission another Carol

Williams composition, **Quick Fix Toccata, Op.22**, aimed at the organist who wants to get out of church quickly.

Carol returns to the stage for the second half in a beautiful shimmering evening gown and lots of approval from the audience. The first of two is from French composer Leon Boellman and is **Toccata (Suite Gothique, Op.25)**. This was followed by **Brazil**, one of the most famous Brazilian songs, written by Ary Barroso in 1939. Carol gave this Samba a completely different arrangement from any one I've ever heard and just loved it.

Next up, a **John Philip Sousa Medley**. He was an American composer and conductor of the late Romantic era and is known as the March King. Carol said she was going to play some of his music that we had probably never heard. She was right and hence I'm not going to attempt to make a list.

One of Carol's many likes is Jazz and the Hammond B-3 organ, so she did a great job in turning our Kimball into a sound-a-like as she played **Walk on the Wild Side**. The music by Elmer Bernstein and lyrics by Mack Davis was written for the 1962 film with the same title and performed there by one of my favorites Brook Benton.

Life on Mars? by David Bowie in 1971 was next and has been described as a cross between a Broadway musical and a Salvador Dali painting. I liked the music but I have not heard it before. This was immediately followed by another Carol Williams compositions **Daisy Violin, Op.6**.

Next some audience participation as we join Carol in a **Sing Along Medley**. This consisted of: A) **Battle Hymn of the Republic**, B) **Take Me Out to the Ball Game**, C) **Bill Bailey, Won't You Please Come Home** (one of several titles by the way), D) **Yankee Doodle Dandy** (also has several titles), E) **She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain**, and F) **When the Saints go Marching In**.

First of the next two was dedicated to us and composed by Carol. She said it was Blues or Jazz depending upon how it's played and entitled **Dickinson Bounce**. Then for the Hammond sound again we enjoyed **Norwegian Wood (This Bird has Flown)** by Lennon and McCartney on the 1965 'Rubber Soul' album.

Take Five is next in Carol's own styling which I completely enjoyed. It's from 1959 by Paul Desmond in the Dave Brubeck Quartet.

The final piece is just about my favorite classical music. Composed by Charles-Marie Widor and magnificently played by Dr. Carol Williams, **Toccata from Symphony for Organ No.5, Op.42**.

After a standing ovation, Carol played another of her compositions, **Andromeda Op.19**. It is also on her "Just Carol" album. She said the idea is to close your eyes and think World Peace.

Dr. Carol Williams more than exceeded my expectations. Not only did she "make my night", but I left feeling good too. What a doctor she is. Do hope to see her again. Thank you, Carol, for a great concert!