

# Carol Williams

D.M.A., ARAM, Dip Ram, AD (Yale), FRCO, FTCL, ARCM, San Diego Civic Organist Emerita

## **Ambition:**

*"I want to bring the classical organ to new audiences and, with my performance, make you feel good."*

## **Education:**

British born Carol was a child prodigy nurtured in a Welsh musical family. She began private lessons at age five and could read music before English. Carol began performing organ recitals throughout the UK, chauffeured by her father at age eight. Dr. Williams's formal training started with five years at the Royal Academy of Music where she specialized in organ performing as a student of David Sanger and obtained the Academy's prestigious Recital Diploma together with an LRAM (organ) and an LRAM (piano) and there also studied Harpsichord with Virginia Black. Carol was awarded all the major prizes for organ performance and, during her studies she became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists; a Fellow of Trinity College London; and an Associate of the Royal College of Music. Carol commuted from the UK for a year to study with Daniel Roth, the Organist at the Church of St. Sulpice, Paris. Moving to the United States she undertook postgraduate study at Yale University under the direction of Professor Thomas Murray and was awarded an Artist Diploma together with the Charles Ives prize for outstanding achievement. Carol undertook her Doctoral studies with Professor McNeil Robinson at the Manhattan School of Music and received the Helen Cohn award for her D.M.A. degree in 2001.

## **History:**

Carol recently moved to Atlanta Georgia with her husband. In San Diego California from 2001-2017 Dr. Carol was Artistic Director of the Spreckels International Organ Concert Series, the largest in North America. Dr. Carol is the first woman in the world to hold the position "Civic Organist" and has been awarded the title "San Diego Civic Organist Emerita".

Dr. Williams has performed throughout the United States, England, France, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Monaco, Luxembourg, Holland, Poland, Germany, Denmark, Singapore, South Korea, China and Russia. Williams is known widely for her expert classical skills and collaborations with various symphonies, jazz, blues, pop and rock musicians including the BBC Concert Orchestra, San Diego Symphony Orchestra and the Beijing Symphony Orchestra as well as with various regional local bands.

Carol has recorded over 23 CDs and published over 50 compositions on Melcot Music and is featured on world media platforms highlighting her profound love for the "King of Instruments."

Dr. Carol hosts "TourBus" a documentary series on exploring the large and small, famous and unique pipe organs of the world and also, hosts a YouTube talk show series "On The Bench" interviewing musical artists.

In the United Kingdom, Dr. Williams has been elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM) in recognition of her contribution to music. Some of her highlight concerts are for Princes Diana, the Virgil Fox Memorial Concert and the 10th anniversary concert of the Walt Disney Concert Hall Organ.

## **Notable Church Affiliations:**

Chapel Organist, Yale University, New Haven, CT; Associate Organist at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Long Island's Garden City, NY; Artist in Residence at St. Paul's Cathedral in San Diego, CA; Director of Music St. Thomas Aquinas Charlottesville, VA University Parish.

## **Presently:**

Artist in Residence and Organist, Peachtree Christian Church, Atlanta, GA

## **Philanthropy:**

Carol donates several performances per year for various charity fund raising efforts.

## **Appeal:**

Carol performs heavy flashy classical pieces, theater, jazz, pop and everything in-between.

Her programs are of vast diversity, elegance and include her charismatic personality.

Williams' performances are received with great enthusiasm.