

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 Central Virginia with her husband. Carol was appointed the "first woman in the world" to hold the title of "Civic Organist" and is the "first woman to now hold the title "Civic Organist Emerita" as San Diego Civic Organist and Artistic Director of the largest Organ festival in north America from 2001-2017. 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. She 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 a featured musician on many Blogs, PodCasts, Radio Stations and TV News stories in America, Canada and the United Kingdom, Carol is host to "TourBus" organ documentaries and "On The bench with Dr. Carol" talk show. 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. A couple of her highlight concerts has been 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.

Presently:

Concert Organist; Composer; Conductor; San Diego Civic Organist Emerita -Director of Music St. Thomas Aquinas Charlottesville University Parish; Artistic Director of Viscount North America.

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 "rock star" enthusiasm.

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