



Seven Eight Artists

Carol Williams

Organist

Biography

Dr. Carol Williams is an internationally celebrated concert organist and composer whose musical brilliance, warmth, and infectious sense of joy have captivated audiences across the globe. Born in Britain into a musical Welsh family, she was reading music before English and gave her first recitals across the UK as a young child. By five, she was already at the organ bench; by eight, she was performing to astonished audiences, and her path toward a world-class career was unmistakable.

Carol trained at the Royal Academy of Music under David Sanger, winning every major organ performance prize, earning advanced diplomas in organ and piano, and studying harpsichord with Virginia Black. She went on to study in Paris with the legendary Daniel Roth, earned her Artist Diploma and the Charles Ives Prize at Yale with Thomas Murray, and completed her Doctor of Musical Arts at the Manhattan School of Music under McNeil Robinson, receiving the prestigious Helen Cohn Award. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, Fellow of Trinity College London, Associate of the Royal College of Music, and was later honored as an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music.

Carol made history as the world's first woman to serve as Civic Organist, holding the celebrated post in San Diego, where she also led the Spreckels International Organ Concert Series—the largest of its kind in North America. Now based in England with her husband, she continues to perform on the world's great organs, spanning the U.S., Europe, Asia, and beyond. Her repertoire is dazzlingly expansive: from towering classical masterpieces to lyrical original compositions, from majestic symphonic collaborations to surprising and stylish crossovers with jazz, blues, pop, and rock artists. She has appeared with orchestras including the BBC Concert Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, and Beijing Symphony, and has recorded more than 23 albums with over 50 published compositions.

On screen, Carol is widely known as the charismatic host and creator (with her husband, Kerry) of the widely loved documentary series “TourBus” and the engaging interview show “On the Bench” with Dr. Carol, where she brings audiences into the musical worlds and stories behind the King of Instruments.

Her performances have included concerts for Princess Diana, the Virgil Fox Memorial, the 10th Anniversary of the Walt Disney Concert Hall Organ, and countless acclaimed international festival appearances. Yet despite all the grandeur, her mission remains refreshingly heartfelt: *to share the classical organ with new audiences, to uplift spirits, and to make music feel alive, joyful, and wonderfully human.*

Deeply devoted to philanthropy, Carol performs numerous benefit concerts each year in support of animal welfare organizations, military veterans, first responders, and firefighters. An equestrian in her spare time, she brings the same grace, strength, and spirited elegance to the saddle that she brings to the organ bench.

Carol Williams is represented by Seven Eight Artists.

Current as of December 2025.

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Acclaim

Carol Williams performs a rainbow of organ colours ... A born entertainer at the highest level takes on the Royal Festival Hall's refurbished giant

- *The Arts Desk, London*

Her abundant technical facility is matched by her exemplary artistry. The organist thrills us with music from across the spectrum, showing off the range and power of the Royal Festival Hall's refurbished organ.

- *The American Organist*

Carol Williams, 'A hot-blooded artist who prefers to delight in the moment and wants to share it immediately with the audience ... very irresistible and atypical concert'

- *Luxembourg Word*

Enviably technique, and plays with splendid aplomb.

- *The Diapason*

Dr. Williams plays with passion and imagination, eliciting sounds that are alternately grandiose, ethereal, exotic, and colorful ... Her abundant technical facility is matched by her exemplary artistry.

- *The American Organist*

A flawless program...[playing] as glittery as the gown she wore.

- *The German Music Network*

A virtuoso's flair...out of the thundering masses of sound, Williams produced delicate, flower-like arpeggiated figures that touched the spirit ... Rarely does one hear Messiaen's strikingly original voice played so compellingly, so naturally.

- *The Washington Post*

A performance of epic proportions, in keeping with the artist's already well-established reputation.

- *Keyboard Player, London*

Rises to the challenges of her varied programs with a transparent grace and lightness of touch that more than compensate for the somber colors of this fine old instrument.

- *The San Diego Union-Tribune*

The power of the organ unleashed...Carol Williams chatted easily with the audience, introducing most of the pieces herself in a warm, approachable manner ... awe-inspiring ... some Broadway razzamatazz ... suitably jubilant ... controlled complexity and mayhem.

- *The Straits Times, Singapore*

The delightful and extraordinarily talented artiste Carol Williams...truly stunning.

- *The Nashville News*

Williams takes Barrie by storm...flamboyant ... magnificent.

- *The Barrie Examiner, Canada*

Williams plays with verve and style and an innate musicality. More than technically excellent, her playing is artistic without being artsy ... extremely enjoyable

- *Dayton Arts & Entertainment News, Dayton, Ohio*

A brilliant but iconoclastic Carol Williams ... the hot-blooded artist who prefers to delight in the moment and wants to share it immediately with the audience

- *Baltimore Music Scene*