

Summer2018

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Summer Organ Festival Launched

The International Summer Organ Festival got off to a fine start on Monday, June 25 with the virtuoso playing of Artistic Director / San Diego Civic Organist Raúl Prieto Ramírez. Many fellow organists were present to enjoy his rendition of works by Liszt, as the San Diego chapters of both the [American Guild of Organists](#) (AGO) and [Theatre Organ Society](#) held a group potluck just before the concert. The picnic tradition at Summer Organ Festival concerts is widely enjoyed! If your picnic needs a boost, be sure to patronize the advertisers in the Summer program book, including [Pie Craft Pizza](#) and the [Market Place](#) deli!

The full lineup for summer is [here](#). This year the concerts go all the way up to and including Labor Day, September 3.



Above: Thanks to Dave Scott of KUSI, who came to report the weather from the Spreckels Organ Pavilion on opening night. Serenading the viewing audience is Russ Peck at the organ. At right, Lizbeth Persons Price interviews Raúl during intermission. At top: the Pavilion was graced by a full moon as well as excellent lighting effects on the Summer Organ Festival's opening night. Photos: Bob Lang.

Whither Webcasting?

Lovers of Spreckels Organ concerts have missed the regular webcast. The quality of sound and picture were simply not “up to scratch” and now the Society is working to improve the audio and video with more and better cameras and microphones. Once new equipment is up and running, the Society will post individual music selections on YouTube and Facebook. We hope to implement these improvements before year-end.

Upcoming Events

The Spreckels Organ plays every Sunday, rain or shine, at 2 p.m for a free public concert in the heart of Balboa Park.

Mon. Aug 6 - Annual SOS Membership Meeting on Pavilion Stage at 5:30 p.m.

Tues. Aug 7 - Raúl Prieto Ramírez plays at “[Twilight in the Park](#)” - 6:15 p.m. Immediately preceded by the [Ice Cream Social](#) hosted by Friends of Balboa Park. Come early for ice cream!

Mon. Aug 20 – Movie Night [Beer/Wine Tasting Fundraiser](#) at Japanese Friendship Garden, 5 to 7 pm.—followed by the annual Silent Movie Night of the Organ Festival: Steven Ball plays for “Safety Last” featuring Harold Lloyd.

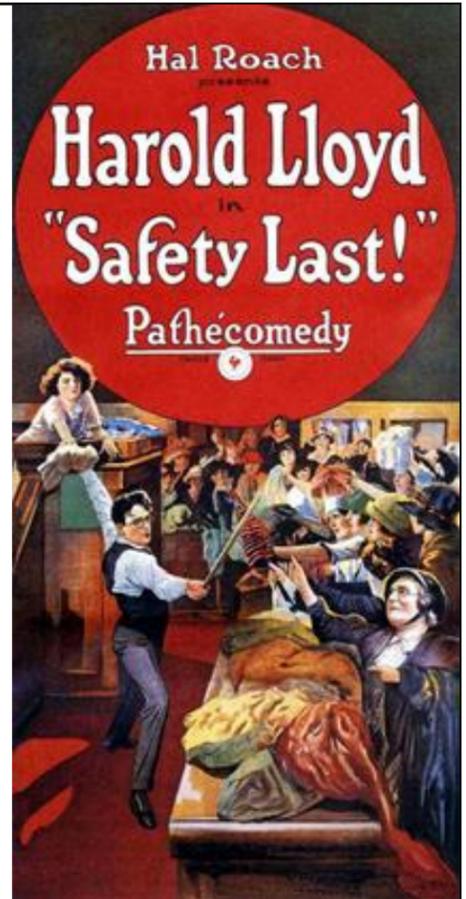
Mon. Sept 3 – Finale Concert of the Summer Organ Festival

Mon. Oct 22 – Raúl Prieto Ramírez presents an Opera Celebration Concert in partnership with San Diego Opera, featuring arias from Carmen, Le Nozze di Figaro and Rigoletto - 7 p.m.

Sat. Nov. 10 – Onstage fundraising luncheon including intimate concert by Raúl Prieto Ramirez

Sat. Dec 1 – Community Christmas Center opening – 3 p.m.

Fri / Sat Dec 7-8 – [December Nights](#) in Balboa Park




Beer & Wine Taste Event

Monday August 20
5 to 7 p.m.
Japanese Friendship Garden

Immediately preceding the annual Movie Night at Spreckels Organ Pavilion, enjoy a Beer & Wine Taste fundraiser next door. We'll save your seat! All attendees will enjoy reserved seating for Movie Night.

\$35 per person (\$40 at the door).

Snacks will be provided, along with excellent local craft brews and wines – plus a souvenir wine glass, while supplies last.

Thanks to the local breweries listed at right, and to the law firm of Hughes & Pizzuto for furnishing the wine and glasses!

Reservations close: August 16 at 11 p.m.



Hard-working volunteer coordinator Andrea Card not only wrangles the volunteers but serves as one herself: greeting audience members with programs and information. You too can volunteer—ask Andrea or any volunteer at a concert!



Dear Members and Friends of the Spreckels Organ Society,

I hope you're enjoying one or more of the fine concerts now playing on Mondays at the Organ Pavilion. It was a pleasure to launch the season with an appreciative audience. During July I am in Barcelona to coordinate the organ festival there, and I

look forward to my return in August. Right now I'm working closely with several Music Institutions in San Diego for future programs and collaborations. So far October 22nd will be the date for a concert in collaboration with SD Opera at the organ Pavilion. More will come soon!

Thank you, members of the Society, for supporting us with your membership. Your participation as a member and by attending concerts is making a difference! See you soon.

Sincerely,

Raúl Prieto Ramírez
Civic Organist / Artistic Director

"Music in the Park"

Thanks to the [Friends of Balboa Park](#), who have chosen to embrace music at the theme of their annual Millennial Award for outstanding achievements in making Balboa Park worth visiting. In October, the Spreckels Organ Society will share this prestigious award with the [San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory](#) at the Friends' [annual luncheon on Friday, October 19](#). Meanwhile, the Friends are teaming up with the Society to present two special occasions at the organ pavilion this summer:

- ◇ **Monday, July 16:** dedication of new loudspeakers on the [Ona May Lowe Carillon](#) in the California Tower. A special dedication bell performance by Gina Seashore will precede the Monday evening organ concert.
- ◇ **Tuesday, August 7:** Raúl Prieto Ramírez will play the Spreckels Organ for the "[Twilight in the Park](#)" concert, preceded by the Friends' [Ice Cream Social](#). Come early (about 6 p.m.) to get a free sundae!

And remember to join the Friends for [National Carousel Day](#) – Wednesday July 25 – from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Balboa Park Carousel.

Dear Friends:

Well, the 31st Annual International Summer Organ Festival is in full swing. There seems to be a new excitement in the air with, not only the Civic Organist/Artistic Director position being filled, but also a lineup of exciting artists coming to San Diego to play the Spreckels Organ this summer. Starting with the 15-year old twins that are going to dazzle with their organ-playing abilities, a feeling of youthfulness in the lineup. Be assured, however, that all of our performers are all outstanding organists. No matter what the age of the performer, they all have something to give, and I know that you are going to be thrilled with the excitement that each of them brings to the Spreckels stage.

I hope that you will show your appreciation for these programs by being as generous as possible with putting money in the Gold Boxes at the entrances. Spreckels Organ concerts are the best bargain in the San Diego arts world. There is no admission charge, but please do put your folding money (it makes less noise!) in those boxes. Also, please bring friends and relatives to concerts. Share with them the joy of organ music. So many people think that organs are located only in churches, playing slow, mournful music. Give them a new perspective on organ music at Spreckels, and perhaps they will become members as well.

I really appreciate each and every one of you. Together, we are a force for organ music in Southern California!!

Warmly,

Jack Lasher
President

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Welcoming 5th Graders

Thanks to organists Raúl Prieto Ramírez and Russ Peck, to organ curator Dale Sorenson, and to volunteers Len Filomeo, Dennis Fox, Tony Valencia, and others, this year about 700 fifth graders from at least 20 schools in the San Diego Unified School District have been treated to a customized organ concert experience complete with music, lectures, and Q&A. The visits are scheduled through the Friends of Balboa Park, which has networked with the School District and the park's museums to invite teachers to [choose park adventures](#) for their students. Many of the students visiting the Spreckels Organ are engaged in some kind of music study, and for many it has been their first look at the "king of instruments." With autumn, the school visits will resume. Your help is needed to fund these visits! Contact the office or ask at the membership table about support for the 5th Grade program.

Young Organists Honored

Outstanding students of the organ had a chance to play on two Sundays in June and were recognized for their fine work. At the concerts, each student played two musical selections. Scholarship awards will be given on "Rising Stars" night: Monday, August 13.



Above, from left: Naya DelVal and Aska Enomoto of the Novice Division, John Yokoyama and Michele Eggleston of the Advanced Division.

Below, from left: Nathaniel Powell and Katherine Powell, Novice Division; Margaret Campbell and Stephen Priest, Advanced Division, AGO representative Leslie Wolf Robb, Raúl Prieto Ramírez.



Driving to Balboa Park? Here's Where to Park the Car

by Jean Samuels

Parking in Balboa Park can be challenging, especially on weekends and in the summer. The Organ Pavilion lot is usually full by 11:00 a.m. But other than Earth Day or December Nights, parking is easy if you know where to look.

The best place to park, especially for those who have a lot to carry or have mobility limitations, is at Inspiration Point. The entrance to the two very large parking lots at Inspiration Point is on the east side of Park Boulevard, at Presidents Way. There is a free tram that has an ADA-accessible ramp. There is handicapped parking close to the tram stop, and there are shaded benches to sit on while you wait for the tram. The tram runs every 10 to 15 minutes from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the summer. (After summer hours end on October 31, the tram stops running at 6:00 p.m.) The tram stops by the El Cid statue near the Plaza de Panama, then heads back to Inspiration Point, stopping on Pan American Road next to the restrooms just across the street from the Spreckels Organ Pavilion.

If you don't mind a five to ten-minute walk, there is a large parking lot that starts behind the Federal Building (formerly the Hall of Champions) and goes around to the back of the Air & Space Museum. The entrance is on the west side of Presidents Way, just off Park Boulevard. If the lot seems full, keep going all the way around to the back behind the Air & Space Museum, where there are usually several spaces. (Please note that the road does not go through to the parking lot in front of the Air & Space Museum.) [Click here to access the Tram Route Map.](#)



This color photo by Bob Lang from a recent concert, compared with a photo of two Pavilion visitors from long ago (1915 perhaps?) shows that Balboa Park has been a favored destination for decades!