

KRISTEN LAWRENCE

Organist / Composer / Vocalist



Kristen Lawrence was born and raised in the temperate trick-or-treating weather of Orange County, California. Disneyland's *Haunted Mansion* is her second home.

After studying piano for five years, Kristen began her organ studies at age 12 from Pulitzer Prize-nominated composer/organist Dr. Robert Cummings. She attended Foothill High School in North Tustin

where she won the Philharmonic Society's Ed Doyle Music Award competition. She accepted a music scholarship to Brigham Young University, studying under organists Dr. Parley Belnap and Dr. Douglas Bush, where her experiences ranged from accompanying on the organ in front of audiences of 20,000 at televised live devotional broadcasts... to singing in the Early Music Ensemble...to performing as a can-can dancer in the university's production of "The Merry Widow."

She graduated from BYU with a Bachelors of Music in Organ Performance and Pedagogy and has taught students in both Orange County and Salt Lake City, Utah. As well as playing piano and organ for weddings, funerals, church services, *Messiah* sing-ins, banquets, and receptions, she also arranged and played keyboards in the pop/rock band, *Checkpoint Charley*, having recorded one album with them.

In 2008, Kristen performed as Ms. Mueller, the spooky music teacher/organist, on the \$3.1 million William J. Gillespie concert organ in Pacific Symphony's *Halloween Spooktacular* under the direction of conductor Maxim Eshkenazy.

Halloween is one of Kristen's passions, and for the past decade she has studied its history and culture, which has led to her composing a collection of music and lyrics called the "Halloween Carols." Kristen released *Arachnitect – from the Halloween Carols*, her first 5-track EP in 2008, and a full-length CD, *A Broom With A View – from the Halloween Carols*, in 2009. She currently has over 60 carols written that she is arranging to record for future releases.

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