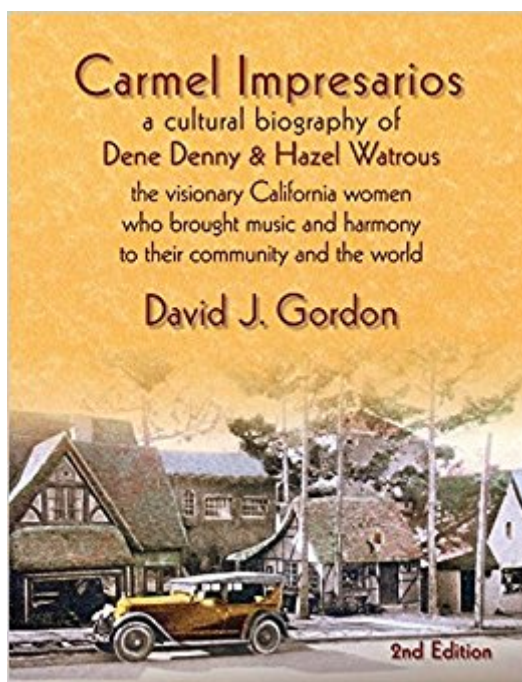


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# Carmel Impresarios: A Cultural Biography Of Dene Denny And Hazel Watrous



## Synopsis

Carmel-by-the-Sea, a little town on the California coast, was one of the artistic hot spots of the West in the early 1920s, when two extraordinary women paid a visit one spring, and never left. Dene Denny and Hazel Watrous designed Carmel's first art gallery, and three dozen of its early houses. They founded the Carmel Music Society in 1927, and in the midst of the Great Depression they created the Carmel Bach Festival. For two decades they ran a successful repertory theater in Monterey and a major performing arts series in San Jose. In a man's world, their partnership brought music and harmony to Central California and far beyond. Carmel Impresarios is a cultural biography of these two amazing pioneers in music, architecture, design, and the arts. The book spans more than a century of history (1830-1960) and includes nearly 300 vintage photos and illustrations. It places the life and work of Denny and Watrous within the context of the artistic, intellectual, and cultural currents of early 20th century California.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I highly recommend this new release Carmel Impresarios by David Gordon, as it adds much to the historiography of the cultural hotbed of Carmel during the 1920s and 1930s. ... [Gordon's] exhaustive "References" section is in itself worth the purchase price. - John Crosse, Southern California Architectural History Carmel Impresarios is a wonderful, long-overdue biography of two amazing pioneers in music, architecture, design, and the arts who, as often happened with women, were "disappeared" from earlier accounts. Written with zest and love, this book is a major

contribution. "David Gordon has given us a real gift!" -Riane Eisler, author of *The Chalice & the Blade* and *The Real Wealth of Nations*

The ideal biographer for the Denny-Watrous partnership has taken on the task. A knowledgeable and talented musician with a zeal for scholarly historical research, David is endowed with an abiding gift for words together with a love for the arts and for Carmel. This lovingly researched and engrossing biography of Dene Denny and Hazel Watrous is a long-overdue account of a partnership that inspired an artistic Renaissance in Carmel's early days. In the process of illuminating the lives and visions of his beloved impresarios, David provides abundant fresh material about early Carmel and its distinctive history. Moreover, he reveals how its astonishing artistic ferment interwove with the larger, changing world and established in the region an enduring passion for joyful creative excellence. [from the Foreword by Barbara Rose Shuler]

An incredibly well researched and documented history of Carmel dating back to the early 1600's, but focused on 1820s-1959. The biography of Dene Denny and Hazel Waltrous is a must for anyone interested in the history Carmel and the Carmel Music Society. I am amazed at the research that went into this book. I can't imagine the time, effort and patience required to compile and make sense of all of this information. The book is also full of wonderful photographs and documents that really add so much! Appendices follow the biography and those are an education in themselves. They include everything from Performance Schedules of the Carmel Bach Festival and the Monterey Peninsula Orchestra dating back to the 1930's, to a 3 minute history of photography. You could never accuse Mr. Gordon of leaving anything out. The way this is organized makes it easy to find anything you're interested in throughout the Appendices and the main body of the book is written to read for pleasure in addition to the history.

A little disappointing

This book is really awesome. Thinking about the volume of research that Mr. Gordon gathered, then organized and filtered to write this story is mind boggling. To date, no one else has taken on the telling of this historic and wonderful tale. Together, these two talented and accomplished women helped build the foundation of music, arts and culture, not only in Carmel, but contributed to other near regions including the Monterey Bay Peninsula, San Jose and San Francisco. I think many will be enlightened and amazed by this book, not just music and history fans - I know I certainly was!

Thank you Mr. Gordon for a job well done. What a beautifully written gift you have given to so many.

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