



## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A Ballpark Organist

When it comes to riling up the crowd at Dodger Stadium, only one woman has the keys: organist **NANCY BEA HEFLEY**. This is her 26th season manning the ballpark's pipes.

**I STARTED TAKING PIANO LESSONS** when I was 4½. I had always been fascinated with the organ at church. I'd go down and talk to the organist, who was my piano teacher, and beg her for organ lessons. I guess I wore her down. She gave me about

six basic lessons to keep the fingers and pedals smooth.

**I ALSO TOOK ACCORDION LESSONS**, and my teacher wanted me to be a concert accordionist. I became popular and played Vegas and Tahoe.

**AT THE ORANGE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**, there was an organ on the stage. The music director asked if I knew how to play it, which I did. He liked the songs better on the organ and told me to leave my accordion at home next time.

**I WAS NOT A SPORTS FAN** before working for the Dodgers. I was very busy with music. My mother and husband, Billy, were Dodger fans. As an ironworker, Billy helped build Dodger Stadium. He did that for 40 years. Now, he accompanies me to every game.

**I PICK ALL THE MUSIC.** Over the years, the selection has evolved greatly. I used to play 40 to 50 songs a game. Gradually, recorded music was introduced. Now, I play four or five songs a night.

**I DON'T USE SHEET MUSIC.** I have 2,000 songs in my head.

**I'VE MET SOME NEAT PEOPLE.** How many organists can say they've accompanied opera singer Plácido Domingo and some of the *American Idol* stars?

**AS MUCH AS I'VE PLAYED** "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," I'm not bored with it.