



a PART of the story

Spreading automata joy

by Jim Coffee • San Diego, California, USA • Photos by Richard Schulte

Purpose: To strengthen the world of automata



1. Jim performs with his hand-built street organ and mini carnival at Balboa Park, San Diego, California.

There are many rewards to be obtained by permitting/encouraging your automata to appear or perform in public. My first experience with this occurred in 2016, when I added an animated monkey to the top of my street organ. I had first played my organ without a monkey. People enjoyed the music. Then I added the monkey and was introduced to the power of automata.

Several years passed while I was busy creating automata in my studio. I enjoyed each of them for a moment or two, then boxed them up. In 2020 I took one of my electric-motor-powered automata and set it up next to my street organ.



2. A pianist strokes the keys as the clarinetist moves in time to his tunes.