

# *Roberta Carpenter*

A versatile musician, Roberta Carpenter is a conductor, violinist, and teacher.

Currently Music Director of the Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra, Ms. Carpenter has directed the Martinu Philharmonic, Hradec Kralove Philharmonic, and Janacek Philharmonic (Czech Republic), the Sudecka Philharmonic (Poland), the Whitewater, Beloit/Janesville, and Harper Symphonies, Vidin Philharmonic, and the Concord, and Appleton Chamber Orchestras. She has also conducted the Waukesha Choral Union and numerous choirs. Ms. Carpenter was Music Director of the Whitewater Symphony and the Carroll College Orchestra, and held Assistant Conductor positions with the Fox Valley Symphony and the Concord Chamber Orchestra. She has conducted the Moscow Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine and the Thuringen Philharmonic of Germany in workshops.

A CD recording with Ms. Carpenter, the Martinu Philharmonic and violinist Wayne Lin was released in 2001. A DVD recording 'The Prague & Nymburk Concerts' with the Hradec Kralove Philharmonic was released in June 2004. DVD and CD recordings of the Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra's Debut Concert were released in December 2012. The DVD was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the American Prize Awards for Recordings in the Arts. A recording of Dvorak's Serenade for Strings, Op.22 with the Janacek Philharmonic placed in the Finals of the 2017 American Prize Competition, and the Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra's May 19, 2018 Concert featuring 4 new movements of the Lake Tones, Legends & Landscapes series, which is currently in the 2018 American Prize Award Semi-Finals, are both available on YouTube and digital media. The OCO recording of Beethoven's 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony and the first 7 movements of Sigmund Snopek's Lake Tones, Legends & Landscapes series will be released online this Spring.

An advocate of new music, Ms. Carpenter has premiered orchestral works by composers Crawford Gates: Fanfare for Lake Country, Sigmund Snopek: Lake Tones, Legends & Landscapes, Jacob Beranek: Theme, Prelude & Nocturne based on the Fanfare for Lake Country, David Bohn: Theme – Transpositions, and Jeff Wussow: Largo et Poderoso. She and the OCO were awarded a Women's Philharmonic Advocacy Grant in 2018 to perform 'After the Rain' by American composer, Diane Wittry. Ms. Carpenter has also worked closely with Dr. Michael Karasis in performances of his works for orchestra & choir (American Civil War Oratorio), a full chamber music concert of his works, and Opera. In April of 2019, Ms. Carpenter led the premiere of 'Imagine A Day... in Lake Country' and a String Orchestra arrangement of the Gates 'Fanfare for Lake Country' by composer Brian Grundstrom.

Ms. Carpenter has served on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and Carroll College, where she directed the college symphonies, chamber orchestra, string ensembles and taught violin, viola, music history and theory. She headed the String Department at Carroll College. Ms. Carpenter founded and subsequently directed the Oconomowoc Chamber Music Clinic for 13 years, has worked with orchestras of all ages, and was named a Lake Michigan Scholar for doing research and pre-concert lectures for symphony audiences. She has hosted 'The Score Came Second...' series (Music Appreciation) with live performance, and the OCO's Chatfield Award videos, three of which are on YouTube. She has also taught in the extension programs for Alverno College and Lawrence University, currently is on the faculty of the Lake Country Conservatory, and heads her Zenith Studio. Ms. Carpenter has also served on the Board and Search Committees for the Waukesha Choral Union and the Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra.

Ms. Carpenter completed the coursework for a Doctoral Degree in Violin Performance and Orchestral Conducting at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She holds Master of Music and Bachelor of the

Fine Arts degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, graduating with honors. She has participated in numerous conducting workshops including those of the League of American Orchestras, The Pierre Monteux School for Conductors, Beyond the Baton, the Repertoire Workshop with the Hradec Kralove Philharmonic, International Conducting Workshop, and the Conductors Guild; and has studied conducting with Harold Farberman, David Becker, Kenneth Kiesler, Diane Wittry, Gustav Meier, Charles Bruck, Dan Lewis, Geoffrey Simon, Otakar Trhlik, Frantisek Vajnar, Kirk Trevor, Nurhan Arman, Gunther Schuller, Margaret Hawkins, Margery Deutsch and Daniel Forlano. Violin studies were undertaken with Vartan Manoogian, Patrick Rafferty, Leonard Sorkin, Frederick Schwarz, Sr. Janet Shurr, and numerous Violin Master Classes including those with the Fine Arts Quartet and Kato Havas.

A Wisconsin native, Ms. Carpenter has performed extensively as a violinist with symphonic, chamber, ballet and opera orchestras, many times as concertmaster. Her current tenure as concertmaster, which spans over 26 years, is for the Waukesha Choral Union Orchestra, which performs large-scale orchestral/choral works. She has performed with the Waukesha Symphony, the Fox Valley Symphony, the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra and the Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra. She has been featured as a chamber musician on Fox Valley Symphony's Chamber Music Series, has collaborated as a chamber musician with both the Jubilate Chorale and the Waukesha Choral Union, and has performed with the former Karl Ratzsch Piano Trio, the Mendelssohn Piano Trio and Trio Arabesque. She has appeared in numerous solo recitals and performances. A historical DVD, 'America's Kings & Queens' produced by Terry Kaldhusdal features performances of Ms. Carpenter and Trio Arabesque. Ms. Carpenter collaborated with Sharon Goodrum on a CD entitled 'Light: Classic Favorites for Violin & Piano', which was a semi-finalist in the 2015 American Prize Awards. It is available online at [www.zmusicintl.com](http://www.zmusicintl.com). Trio Arabesque recordings of Haydn's Piano Trio #5 and the Dvorak Slavonic Dance #2 are due to be released in May 2019.

Composer Crawford Gates wrote a Violin/Piano arrangement of his Fanfare for Lake Country for Roberta, which she premiered on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Ms. Carpenter worked with Dr. Gates and composers Jacob Beranek & David Bohn to create a series of Fanfare 'Instrumental Arrangements' of varying lengths with availability for most instrument types. She edited the Theme, Prelude and Fanfare (full length) arrangements for violin, and published the Beranek & Bohn arrangements through her Zenith Music International company, to enable them to be available to the public. In July, Ms. Carpenter recorded the Fanfare – Violin/Piano version as well as the two instrumental arrangements for violin and two movements of the Bach Unaccompanied Sonata in g minor on the 1728 'Thunis' Stradivarius. This recording was released in January 2018. She received a grant from David & Pam Williams, and appreciates the outreach of the Stradivari Society in the project.

She is currently working on a documentary video: 'The Art of Luthiership – The Chatfield Instrument Restoration Project' which includes interviews with luthier Scott Sleider and shares an inside view of the stringed instrument making. It was released on YouTube in March 2019. Ms. Carpenter, as OCO Music Director, hosts the afore mentioned video and the annual OCO Chatfield Award Tribute Videos, which include the musical history of the area. These are also on YouTube. In October 2017, Roberta filmed 8 hours of interviews with Crawford & Georgia Gates, which she was asked to produce into a video and write an article about his brilliant life in music, both as a prolific composer and an orchestral conductor.

Her performances have been broadcast on radio and television, many now are on YouTube as well. She has received a multitude of foundation grants and awards.

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