

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 workshop settings. 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. The CD continues to be broadcast on Public Radio. DVD and CD recordings of the Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra's Debut Concert were released in December 2012. The DVD was awarded 3rd Place in the American Prize Awards for Recordings in the Arts. Recently, a recording of Dvorak's Serenade for Strings, Op.22 was released with the Janacek Philharmonic, and is available on YouTube and digital media. It is currently in the Finals of the American Prize Competition.

An advocate for composers and new compositions, 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 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. 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 Bruch, Dan Lewis, Geoffrey Simon, Otakar Trhlik, Frantisek Vajnar, Kirk Trevor, Nurhan Arman, Gunther Schuller, Margery Deutsch and Daniel Forlano. Violin studies were undertaken with Vartan Manooagian, 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.

Most recently, composer Dr. Crawford Gates wrote a Violin/Piano arrangement of his Fanfare for Lake Country for Roberta, which she premiered on January 8th, 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 also edited the Theme, Prelude and Fanfare (full length) arrangements for violin, and published all 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 for the project. She is currently working on a documentary video on 'The Art of Violin Making – The Chatfield Project' which includes interviews with luthier Scott Sleider and is a collaborative project with the Film Department at OHS, and in October, filmed interviews with Crawford & Georgia Gates, which she will produce into a video about his brilliant life in music.

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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