

Roberta Carpenter, Conductor

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. 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 Wisconsin 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.

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 hosts: The Score Came Second... series (Music Appreciation), which incorporates live performance. She has also taught in the extension programs for Alverno College and Lawrence University.

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, and the Conductors Guild, and has studied with many prominent conductors in the U.S., Canada, France, and the Czech Republic.

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 19 years, is for the Waukesha Choral Union, which performs large-scale orchestral/choral works. She has been featured as a chamber musician on Fox Valley Symphony's Chamber Music Series, has performed with the former Karl Ratzsch Piano Trio, the Mendelssohn Piano Trio and Trio Arabesque, and 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. Her performances have been broadcast on radio and on television. She has received a multitude of foundation grants and awards.