

The Story of Fanfare for Lake Country

6-2022 Update

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1. Fanfare – The Orchestral Premiere

The Fanfare for Lake Country by Crawford Gates was commissioned by the Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra in 2010. The concept was to have a short piece that was vibrant, uplifting, that would be a reflection of life on the lakes.

Written with Oconomowoc and the area's Lake Country in mind, the last well-known piece written for the area was 'I Went for a Walk in Oconomowoc' from approximately 1900. The time seemed right for a new tune! Although the Fanfare for Lake Country was written for the greater Oconomowoc area, with its beautiful lakes in mind, the concept is universal... capturing the impressions and experiences we all have near lakes and water.

Once funding and dates were secure, outreach to a local composer took place, but for several reasons, it was not possible. OCO Music Director Roberta Carpenter reached out to Dr. Crawford Gates, the former Music Director of the Beloit/Janesville, Rockford and Quincy Symphonies, and a noteworthy American composer with compositions for various other Wisconsin locales. The two were well acquainted, as Carpenter had been the substitute Concertmaster and Conductor for the BJSO under Crawford's direction, and Dr. Gates covered for Ms. Carpenter's Orchestra at UW-Whitewater during her tenure there in the early 1990s.

The Fanfare for Lake Country premiered on the OCO's Debut Concert, July 10th, 2010 at the Oconomowoc Arts Center with Roberta Carpenter conducting. Dr. Gates and his wife Georgia were in the house for rehearsals and the concert, and the piece was received with enthusiasm. The concert was recorded, and an audio and DVD were produced. See Fanfare – part 3 or visit zmusicintl.com for additional recording information.

2. Fanfare – The Instrumental Arrangements

In order to share the Fanfare with the community, the concept of a violin/piano arrangement was conceived. The invitation was extended to Dr. Gates. Crawford responded with an enthusiastic yes and proceeded to compose an arrangement of the full Fanfare at a Professional level of performance.

Realizing that it would be possible to have the piece be accessible to all players and, also that sometimes a shorter version would be helpful, outreach and discussions took place with Jacob Beranek, a young, accomplished composer from the area. Jacob obliged with a short 18 measure version called 'Theme' as well as two one-page versions for treble and bass voiced instruments. The Theme was originally released for Treble Instruments (flute, violin, oboe), Bass Instruments (cello, stringed bass, bassoon, trombone & tuba), and Piano (with Guitar Chords). 'Prelude' was written for Treble voiced instruments (flute, violin, oboe) and 'Nocturne' was written for Bass voiced instruments (cello, stringed bass, bassoon, trombone & tuba). It is notable that these two Arrangements, though based on Fanfare, are completely unique, with different tempi, moods, and thematic material.

These Fanfare Instrumental Arrangements were premiered at the OCO's Spotlight Concert in January of 2017. Performers included Theme - Luisa Heckenkamp, piano and Trinity Philbert, violin; Prelude - Vincent Cortese, violin and Jacob Beranek, piano; Nocturne – Eric Heitkemper, bassoon and Jacob Beranek, piano; and Full Fanfare – Roberta Carpenter, violin and Dr. Aaron Matthews, piano.

Dr. Gates, with his wife Georgia, who performed on keyboards (piano and organ) through her life, also completed a Solo Piano version of the full Fanfare. These two Fanfare Arrangements (violin/piano and solo piano) are capstones of Crawford's significant compositional career of nearly 900 works.

In November 2017, Fanfare - Theme Instrumental Arrangements for Bb Instruments (trumpet, clarinet, sax); Eb Instruments (sax); F Horn and Viola were completed and released. These arrangements were composed by David Bohn, a pianist, organist and composer, who is President of the Wisconsin Composers Alliance. David's arrangements of 'Theme' are based on the Fanfare, and are slightly different than the previously released 'Themes'. This is an excellent example of seeing various composer's vision and voice in a project with the same source material.

These Instrumental Arrangements are now available in sheet music and pdf downloads. Links and Information are available on zmusicintl.com. In Oconomowoc, the Sheet Music is available at the Jewelry Mechanic on Hwy P.

3. Fanfare – The Recordings

The OCO recording of the Fanfare for Lake Country – orchestral version is available on CD and DVD. The DVD was awarded 3rd place in the American Prize Awards in 2012. The Fanfare for Lake Country – orchestral version is also available for Downloads and is on YouTube.com. The link to the OCO recording is available on both www.oconchamberorch.org and zmusicintl.com.

The Fanfare – Instrumental Arrangements recording is available as downloads and as a CD. The CD has a beautiful 6 panel CD ‘Wallet’ with photos of the Stradivarius, performers and 4 area lakes. The recording features Jacob Beranek, piano; Eric Heitkemper, bassoon; Dr. Aaron Matthews, piano; and Roberta Carpenter, violin. It also features the 1728 ‘Thunis’ Stradivarius. These recordings are available on YouTube.com. The recordings & sheet music are available online as downloads.

Fanfare – The 1728 ‘Thunis’ Stradivarius

We had the good fortune to record the Fanfare – Instrumental Arrangements with the 1728 ‘Thunis’ Stradivarius. Once the recording concept was set, outreach was made to the Stradivari Society. Stradivarius violins are very rare and in high demand, they have warm, resonant tone, and responsiveness. The Stradivari Society was happy to help connect the recording effort with a Stradivarius depending on it’s availability. As the exact date and time were secured, correspondence was made, and ultimately, the Strad was available. Acknowledgement was such that the Strad would be available the day before the recording session. What an adventure! The trip to Chicago was made, and the Strad was welcomed in Oconomowoc at the Lake Country Conservatory by a group of listeners, who heard the instrument from 8 – 11:00 pm. The recording was a 4-hour session the next day, on July 27th, and was graced by the Stradivarius. Our special thanks to Suzanne, Noah and Alec Fushi of Bein & Fushi, Inc. for their assistance in making this possible.

People ask, Roberta, did it really make a difference, could you really tell? Yes, absolutely. What a joy to play!

I will say that I was playing with my bow, which is a good bow, yet perhaps not in the same realm as a Stradivarius. Perhaps the tone would have been slightly different with a different bow... having said that, because of the short timeframe, only changing the violin so close to the recording time, enabled me to focus and adjust quickly.

4. Fanfare – Key to the Lake Area Photos on the CD Wallet

The lakes pictured on the CD Wallet are:

Cover – Silver Lake

Back Cover – Nagawicka Lake

Inside right (with tree on the left) – Lac LaBelle

Inside CD holder panel (with rainbow and pink flower) – Oconomowoc Lake

6. Fanfare – String Orchestra & String Quintet Arrangements

Composer Brian W. Grundstrom was engaged to write a variation of the Fanfare for Lake Country to showcase the newly restored ‘Chatfield Instruments’. (for more information about the Chatfield Instruments, see OCO Chatfield Award - Intro or The Art of Luthiership and the Chatfield Instrument

Restoration Project on YouTube.com) The instruments were just coming out of the 3 ½ year project, and hadn't been heard for decades. But, the cello, though together, was not completely finished, and so couldn't be performed at the OCO Concert. The rest of the Chatfield Instruments though are present, and the piece 'Variations' on Fanfare for Lake Country, written for Solo String Quartet with String Orchestra was premiered by the Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra on April 14, 2019 at the Oconomowoc Arts Center, with Brian Grundstrom and luthier Scott Sleider in attendance, Roberta Carpenter conducting. The Oconomowoc High School Orchestra students were invited to sit side by side for this performance, and several are featured in the recording.

The cello was ultimately completed, which now opened the opportunity to hear the String Quartet of instruments together for the first time in decades. A String Quartet recital was organized, and composer Brian W. Grundstrom reworked the 'Variations' for Solo Quartet and String Orchestra into a String Quintet arrangement. The work was performed by violinists Roberta Carpenter, Jennifer D'Alessio, violist Robert Ignaszak, cellist Paul Kilpatrick, and Bassist Michael Britz on November 3rd 2019 at the Zion Episcopal Church in Oconomowoc with Dave Reul host. This performance is posted on YouTube – 'OCO Nov 3rd Quartet Recital – Chatfield Instruments'. It includes presentations by both luthier Scott Sleider and composer Brian Grundstrom.

7. OCO-bot Theme Song

The Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra generally includes the Fanfare for Lake Country on each of its concerts... in some version. The remote digital performance released on the far side of the covid lockdown was no exception. A cute little NAO Robot who was enabled to speak to OCO's audience, by Eduporium of Boston and the Sound Mirror video team, also had a special Theme Song written for it! The OCO-bot's Theme song is an improvised combination of the Fanfare for Lake Country, which was originally written by Crawford Gates, and the 'March of the Toy Soldiers' which was composed by P.I. Tchaikovsky. Lannette Calhoun creates and performs this cute and yet noble Theme Song for the newest member of the OCO team... the OCO-bot. You can view and listen to the OCO-bot Theme Song on YouTube.com, and also hear the OCO-bot's dialogue to the audience for the 2021 OCO Digital Performance.

8. Fanfare – Baseball Version!

The Fanfare for Theme... always a winner, shows its true colors when routing for the home team! Written in 2022 for the OCO's May 28th Concert, arranger Jeffrey Pierce masterfully worked 3 Trumpet Calls, the Fanfare for Lake Country Theme, a 4 measure percussion solo, and a rousing ending, sure to bring out the winning spirit in us all! This work was premiered the same month that Oconomowoc's new professional baseball team, the Lake Country Dockhounds made its debut. Frank Reda performs the Trumpet Solo, Dave Magadanz performs the percussion solo, and the Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra is led by Roberta Carpenter. This is due to be released to YouTube in June 2022.