



## February 2024 Biography

Passion and innovation are the hallmarks of American conductor Roberta Carpenter. Co-founder and Music Director of the Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra since 2009, she is recognized as a builder of orchestras and musicians. Ms. Carpenter's musical expertise both on and off the podium, as well as her talent for community relationship building, has helped her to forge a rich and varied career. Nationally, she has guested with such orchestras as the Beloit / Janesville, Harper, Menomonee Falls and Whitewater symphonies, the Wisconsin Philharmonic, the Concord and Appleton chamber orchestras and the Waukesha Choral Union. International guesting includes the Martinu, Hradec Kralove and Janacek Philharmonics in the Czech Republic; the Sudecka Philharmonic in Poland; and the Vidin State Philharmonic Orchestra in Bulgaria, in addition to leading the orchestras of the Moscow Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine and Germany's Thuringen Philharmonic.

Recent highlights include an Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra (OCO) 2023 Concert featuring 3 premieres in a Classic & Sacred Music Concert with the OCO, 4 vocal soloists and pianist; and an OCO Memorial Weekend Concert with lyric bass Thomas Weis, American Legion Vice Commander Tomar Strey, a special Memorial video tribute set to the Adagietto from Mahler's Symphony #5 and the premiere of Fanfare for Lake Country – Baseball; an 'American Songbook' Concert with jazz vocalist Ellen Winters-Reynolds and the Menomonee Falls Symphony in October of 2022, and a 2021 remote Digital Performance with the Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra (OCO) and cellist Benjamin Whitcomb performing the Boccherini Cello Concerto in Bb. In April 2019, the premiere of American composer Brian W. Grundstrom's *Imagine A Day...in Lake Country* for Adult & Children's choirs and the OCO, his string orchestra premiere entitled *Variations on Fanfare for Lake Country*, and Brian's work *Celebration*.

Ms. Carpenter has worked with the OCO to secure seven commissions about the beautiful Lake Country Area. Ms. Carpenter has also worked closely with Dr. Michael Karasis in performances of his works for orchestra & choir (American Civil War Oratorio), a full concert of his chamber music works, and the premiere of his opera. Together with the OCO, Ms. Carpenter was instrumental in arranging the premiere of a matched set of string instruments made in the 1930's by local luthier Frank S. Chatfield on the completion of a 3-year restoration project. She and the OCO premiered the Fanfare for Lake Country – for String Orchestra and String Quintet with these instruments. Following their reveal on April 19, 2019, the instruments and their history are on permanent display at the Oconomowoc Arts Center.

An advocate of new music, Ms. Carpenter has also premiered orchestral works by composers Crawford Gates, Jeffrey Pierce, Sigmund Snopek, Jacob Beranek, David Bohn, and Jeff Wussow. She has worked with American Composer/Conductor Diane Wittry and performed her work entitled 'After the Rain'. Her performances have been broadcast on local radio and television, many now are on YouTube and many other online platforms. She has helped enable A.I. to reach orchestral audiences with the OCO-bot, a friendly robot with a musical theme song, that speaks to audiences.

On the recording front, Ms. Carpenter has recorded with the Janacek Philharmonic, the Hradec Kralove Philharmonic, Martinu Philharmonic and the Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra (OCO) as a conductor. An OCO recording featuring four new movements of the orchestra's *Lake Tones, Legends & Landscapes* series, Elgar's Introduction and Allegro, and Brian Grundstrom's Variations on Fanfare and 'Imagine A Day... in Lake Country' recorded live in May 2018 were released, and a recording with violinist Wayne Lin and the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic is pending release. The OCO's debut recording in 2012, which featured the world premiere recording of the 2010 OCO commission of Crawford Gates' *Fanfare for Lake Country*, 7 movements of Sigmund Snopek's *Lake Tones, Legends & Landscapes series* and Beethoven's 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony, was awarded 3rd place in the 2012 American Prize Awards. With the Hradec Kralove Philharmonic, the 2018 recording of Glinka's Overture to *Ruslan and Ludmilla*, Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2 (featuring violinist Wayne Lin), and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, and with the Janacek Philharmonic, her Dvorak, *Serenade for Strings, Op. 22* CD were released and were finalists in the American Prize Awards. As a violinist, she has released a CD entitled 'Light: Classic Favorites for Violin & Piano' with pianist Sharon Goodrum, a Fanfare-Instrumental Arrangements recording with pianist Dr. Aaron Matthews and composer/pianist Jacob Beranek, and three with Trio Arabesque (the late cellist Janet Marshall and pianist Sharon Goodrum). The trio's live recording of the Haydn Piano Trio #5, the Beethoven Piano Trio Op. 70, #1 'The Ghost', are available on YouTube, and the Peter Martin 'Rhumba' is pending release. A recent release is the ZMI 'Metric Balance in Music' video, which features both orchestral and violin performance excerpts in a program that explores the dynamics of 'weight' in music. It features her recordings with the OCO, Hradec Kralove & Janacek Philharmonics, her recording of the JS Bach Sonata in g minor performed on the Thunis Stradivarius, and is available on YouTube on the [RACarpenter1000](#) channel. Two pdfs with practice applications are available online. In 2022 the OCO released its Memorial Weekend Concert video, with Lyric Bass Dr. Thomas Weis, American Legion Vice Commander Tomar Strey, and a program with J.S. Bach's Choral Prelude from *Wachet Auf*, Elgar's *Serenade for Strings*, a memorial tribute set to the Adagio from Mahler's *Symphony #5* and Americana and baseball themed pieces including *American Sketches*, *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*, the *Star Spangled Banner*, *Field of Dreams*, *Bugler's Holiday* and *Fanfare for Lake Country – Baseball*. Release of the OCO November 11, 2023 Concert is pending.

Ms. Carpenter has also enjoyed visioning and producing performance videos with artistic images. She has collaborated with videographers Sean Kafer, Kevin Pehler, Jim Port, Kyra Arendt, Josh Wolf and Max Anisimov, audio engineers Christopher Willis, Blanton Alspaugh, Matt Spransy and Buzz Kemper, and photographers Katrin Talbot, Stuart Oliver and Max Anisimov, among others. She has also hosted "The Score Came Second.... series" (music appreciation), the OCO Chatfield Award Tribute series, among other OCO outreach videos.

Most recently posted are two introductory videos to the ZMI Conversations Series: Crawford & Georgia Gates. Before they passed, Crawford and Georgia Gates asked Roberta to host and video-document his prolific and significant accomplishments as a Composer and Conductor. He is an American Composer with just short of 900 works. These videos are beginning to be released. The two Introductory videos can be found on YouTube.com – ZMI Conversations: Crawford & Georgia Gates. Releases of the series videos will be announced at [facebook.com/zenithmusicstudio](https://facebook.com/zenithmusicstudio), or by following the [RACarpenter1000](#) channel on YouTube.

As a recipient of numerous foundation grants and awards for her work as a conductor, educator, and as host, her awards include a 2018 Women's Philharmonic Advocacy Grant, being named a Lake

Michigan Scholar for pre-Concert Talks, and receiving the 2021 OCO Chatfield Award, which recognizes 'Bright Spirit, Vision & a Lifetime of Community Service' in music. In 2024, she was nominated for WAMI (Wisconsin Area Music Industry) awards. Ms. Carpenter is invested in the technological aspect of health and wellness and has a long history of work in outreach and prevention in this area.

An accomplished violinist, Roberta Carpenter performs as a recitalist, soloist, solo recording artist, and served as Concertmaster for the Waukesha Choral Union Orchestra for over 26 years, performing 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, and has collaborated as a chamber musician with the Jubilate Chorale, the Waukesha Choral Union, Trio Arabesque, and with the former Karl Ratzsch Piano Trio.

A Wisconsin native, Ms. Carpenter is a respected educator, and currently runs Zenith Studio, a private teaching studio, as well as being a member of the faculty of the Lake Country Conservatory of Music. Her former posts include serving as Music Director of the Whitewater Symphony and the Carroll College Orchestra, as Assistant Conductor for Wisconsin's Fox Valley Symphony, the Beloit/Janesville Symphony, the Concord Chamber Orchestra, and assisting in Audition work with the Green Bay Symphony.

Ms. Carpenter completed coursework for a Doctoral Degree in Violin Performance and Orchestral Conducting at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and holds both Master of Music and Bachelor of the Fine Arts degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, graduating with honors. She studied with Charles Bruck at the Monteux School & Music Festival, as well as in private studies in France. Included among the numerous conducting workshops in which she has participated are those of the League of American Orchestras and the Conductors Guild. Additional conducting mentors include Diane Wittry, Kenneth Kiesler, Frantisek Vajnar, Otakar Trhlik, David Becker, Geoffrey Simon, Margery Deutsch, Harold Farberman, Nurhan Arman, Gustav Meier, and Gunther Schuller.