

Our Directors

Vera Kochanowsky, founder and director of Carmina and Illuminare, is a graduate of the Oberlin and New England Conservatories. She holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stanford University, where she specialized in the performance practices of the 17th and 18th centuries. Active as a choral conductor, harpsichord soloist, and chamber musician, Dr. Kochanowsky has performed with numerous Washington area groups including the National Gallery Chamber Players, the Bach Sinfonia, Ensemble Gaudior, and the Washington Kantorei. Dr. Kochanowsky founded Carmina in 1997, and in 2006 she started the Carmina Women's Ensemble, now known as Illuminare. She teaches harpsichord, voice, and chamber music privately.

Hubert Beckwith, assistant director of Carmina, teaches music history and literature at George Mason University. After earning a PhD in musicology at the University of Maryland, he became the first executive secretary of the American Handel Society. He has led choirs at area churches, serving more than two decades as a church music director. A composer, arranger, and writer on music, he often prepares performing editions for Carmina and Illuminare. In 2004 Carmina sang his Beethoven birthday tribute to much acclaim at the German Embassy. Dr. Beckwith has sung with Carmina since 1998 and has shared in its direction since 2007.



Hubert and Vera at the Ovation Awards dinner, June 1, 2016

About Us

CARMINA, Latin for “poetry” or “songs,” is a chamber choir devoted to exploring the diverse musical styles of the Middle Ages through the Baroque. Founded in 1998, the group has sung at such prestigious Washington-area venues as the National Gallery of Art, the German Embassy, Washington National Cathedral, and the Church of the Annunciation. Collaborators have included Ensemble Gaudior, Armonia Nova, the Washington Kantorei, and the Bach Sinfonia, as well as Illuminare. Carmina performed a Fringe Concert at the 2017 Boston Early Music Festival and has regularly taken part in the Washington Early Music Festival since its inception in 2004. Carmina has received praise from the *Washington Post*; the *Baltimore Sun* noted the group’s “gorgeous tonal balance.” Three CDs are available at concerts and through our website: *A Carmina Sampler*, the medieval miracle play *The Son of Getron*, and Buxtehude’s *Membra Jesu nostri* with Ensemble Gaudior.

Illuminare, established in 2006, focuses on early vocal repertoire composed or arranged for women’s voices. The name reflects the ensemble’s mission: to illuminate exceptional vocal music of past centuries. Just as beautiful initial letters, or illuminations, decorated medieval manuscripts, the group strives to enhance and enrich the lives of its listeners through its performances. Illuminare has performed with many respected Washington area ensembles including Slaveya, the District Eight, Eya, and the Capitol Hill Chorale, as well as Carmina. Of its 2015 appearance at the Boston Early Music Festival, *Early Music America* magazine noted: “Among the few concerts exploring the Middle Ages was [Illuminare’s] beautifully planned, moving, and unusual program of monophony and more.” The group’s CD *Illuminare Sings!* is available at concerts and through the Carmina website.

Carmina and **Illuminare** were honored to receive the Choralis Foundation’s 2016 Ovation Award in the category of Best Chamber Chorus in the capital region. They received Ovation nominations for Best Early Music Chorus (2013) and Most Creative Programming (2017).

For more information, please call
(703) 532-9356, find **CARMINA** and **Illuminare**
on Facebook, or visit our website:

www.CARMINA.org



2017 – 2018

CarminaFest!

Saturday, November 4, 2017, 3 pm

Holiday Lobbying at the Willard

Wednesday, December 6, 2017
5:45 and 6:30 pm

Meditative Magnificence: Music of the English Renaissance

with Ensemble Gaudior
Sunday, March 11, 2018, 5 pm

Italy at the Crossroads: Gabrieli and Monteverdi

with the Washington Cornett and Sackbutt Ensemble
Sunday, April 8, 2018, 4 pm



CARMINA & Illuminare

CarminaFest!

Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 3 pm

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
6800 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003
Tickets: \$25 in advance or at the door
(cash & checks only) • Free parking

Carmina and Illuminare will kick off this special season with our popular gala, CarminaFest, complete with delicious food and drink, silent auction, and choral gems from our warmly received performance at the Boston Early Music Festival last June—including *La Bomba*, a wildly entertaining everything-in-one musical “salad” (*ensalada*) by Mateo Flecha. Join the party and help Illuminare and Carmina celebrate Carmina’s 20th season!

CARMINA & Illuminare

Holiday Lobbying at the Willard

**Wednesday, December 6, 2017
at 5:30 and 6:45 pm**

Willard InterContinental Hotel
1401 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
Metro: Federal Triangle

Free admission • Limited seating

Celebrate the season with both ensembles in the beautifully decorated lobby of the historic Willard Hotel, where “lobbying” got its name. Hear seasonal music both joyous and tender, and sing along with us in Franz Gruber’s own setting of his beloved hymn *Stille Nacht* (Silent Night). Seating is first come, first served. There is ample standing room in the lobby.

Two 45-minute performances

CARMINA & Illuminare

Meditative Magnificence:

Music of the English Renaissance

with Ensemble Gaudior

Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 5 pm

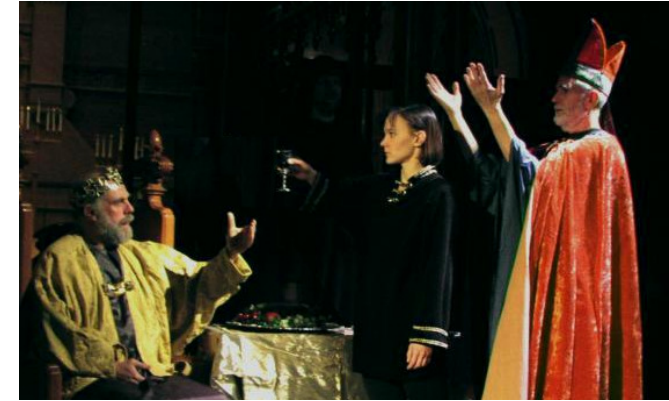
The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
6201 Dunrobbin Drive
Bethesda, MD 20816
Church office: 301-229-3770
Free street parking • Free-will donation

For this remarkable Lenten program, we will be joined by Ensemble Gaudior’s consort of viols as we explore the glorious music of the English Renaissance. Hear the stunning *Lamentations* of Robert White and William Byrd’s lovely verse anthem *Christ Rising*, along with works by Dowland, Sheppard, Tomkins, and Weelkes.



Illuminare and Slaveya Women's Ensemble, 2012

Front: Carmina and Chesapeake Consort of Viols, 2003



Carmina performs The Son of Getron, 2002

CARMINA & Illuminare

Italy at the Crossroads:

Gabrieli and Monteverdi

with the

Washington Cornett and Sackbutt Ensemble

Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 4 pm

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
6800 Columbia Pike
Annandale, VA 22003

Free parking • Free-will donation

Savor Venetian brilliance as we join with the Washington Cornett and Sackbutt Ensemble in recreating the spectacular sounds of the high Renaissance, featuring Giovanni Gabrieli’s *Jubilate Deo* and other works. And experience the newer, passionately expressive style of his successor Claudio Monteverdi in the masterful *Sestina: Lagrime d'Amante al Sepolcro dell'Amata*. Don't miss this terrific conclusion to our 20th anniversary season!