

Our Directors

Vera Kochanowsky, founder and director of Carmina and Illuminare, is a graduate of the Oberlin and New England Conservatories. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stanford University, where she specialized in Baroque performance practice. A choral conductor, harpsichord soloist, and chamber musician, Dr. Kochanowsky has performed with many area groups including the National Gallery Chamber Players, the Bach Sinfonia, and Ensemble Gaudior. Dr. Kochanowsky founded Carmina in 1997 and, in 2006, the ensemble now known as Illuminare. She teaches harpsichord, voice, and chamber music privately.



At 2016 Ovation Awards

Hubert Beckwith, assistant director of Carmina, teaches music history 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 served more than two decades as a church music director. 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.



Guest conductor **Evanne Browne** spent over twenty years in the Washington DC area gaining renown as a soprano soloist with such outstanding early music ensembles as the Smithsonian Chamber Players, Washington Bach Consort, The Folger Consort, and Hesperus. In 2011 she led numerous early music workshops in Colorado and founded Seicento Baroque Ensemble, the state's only choir to specialize in historically informed performances loyal to use of original instruments. She returned to this area in 2016 and currently serves as Director of Music Ministries at Sydenstricker United Methodist Church and Assistant Music Director for the Washington Christmas Revels.

About Us

CARMINA, Latin for “poetry” or “songs,” is in its first season as a men’s choir after twenty years as a mixed ensemble. The new Carmina remains devoted to exploring the diverse musical styles of the Middle Ages through the Baroque. Founded in 1997, the group has sung at such prestigious venues as the National Gallery of Art, the German Embassy, and Washington National Cathedral. Collaborators have included Ensemble Gaudior, Armonia Nova, and the Bach Sinfonia. Carmina performed a Fringe Concert at the 2017 Boston Early Music Festival and regularly took part in the Washington Early Music Festival. The *Washington Post* has praised Carmina; 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, now celebrating its tenth season, 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. Illuminare has performed with many respected Washington area ensembles including Slaveya, the District Eight, Eya, and the Capitol Hill Chorale. Of its 2015 appearance at the Boston Early Music Festival, *Early Music America* noted: “Among the few concerts exploring the Middle Ages was [Illuminare’s] beautifully planned, moving, and unusual program of monophony and more.” Two CDs, *Illuminare Sings!* and *A Festival of Carols*, are 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



2018 – 2019

*Celebrating Illuminare’s
Tenth Anniversary Season*

A Remote Beauty

Sunday, October 21, 2018, 4 pm

Friday, October 26, 2018, 8 pm

Holiday Lobbying at the Willard

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

5:45 and 6:30 pm

Round the Eton Choirbook

Evanne Browne, guest conductor

Saturday, March 9, 2019, 4:30 pm (short program)

Saturday, March 16, 2019, 8 pm

Life, Spirit, and Song

Sunday, April 7, 2019, 4 pm

The Soulful Heart of Italy

with Doug Poplin, cello

and Vera Kochanowsky, harpsichord

Saturday, May 11, 2019, 5 pm

Sunday, May 12, 2019, 3 pm



CARMINA @ Illuminare

A Remote Beauty

Sunday, October 21, 2018, 4 pm

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
555 Water Street SW, Washington DC 20024
Church office: 202-554-3222
Metro: Waterfront • Suggested donation: \$20

Friday, October 26, 2018, 8 pm

Falls Church Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall
225 East Broad Street, Falls Church VA 22046
Free parking • Suggested donation: \$20

We begin the season with a program of remarkable, rarely heard early repertoire. Illuminare will sing Hildegard von Bingen's mesmerizing *Favus distillans* and the *Gloria* from the 14th-century *Mass of Tournai*, which boasts one of the longest, most dazzling "Amens" of the period. Carmina will present works of exceptional beauty—and one steeped in smoky mystery—by Dufay, Spanish masters, and more. Hear us at these two *NEW* venues!

CARMINA @ Illuminare

Holiday Lobbying at the Willard

**Wednesday, December 12, 2018
at 5:30 and 6:45 pm**

(Two 45-minute performances)
Willard InterContinental Hotel
1401 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
Metro: Federal Triangle
Free admission • Limited seating

Ring in 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.

CARMINA @ Illuminare

Round the Eton Choirbook

Evanne Browne, guest conductor

Saturday, March 9, 2019, 4:30 pm
(Short program)

Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, Chapel
8508 Hooes Rd., Springfield VA 22153
Free admission
Free parking in commuter lot

Saturday, March 16, 2019, 8 pm
(Full program)

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
301 A Street SE, Washington DC 20003
Street parking • Metro: Capitol South
Suggested donation: \$20

Carmina and Illuminare will present music from this Latin church music collection, one of few such manuscripts to survive the English Reformation. Expressive dissonances and intricate polyphony are hallmarks of these compositions written for the Eton College chapel choir of men and boys. The passionate *Stabat Mater* by John Browne is a cornerstone of the program, which also features secular music including William Cornysh's charming *Ah, Robin, Gentle Robin* and settings of bawdier texts by John Skelton, who served as poet at the court of King Henry VII.



CARMINA @ Illuminare

Life, Spirit, and Song

Sunday, April 7, 2019, 4 pm

Church of the Little Flower
5607 Massachusetts Ave., Bethesda MD 20816
Church office: 301-320-4538
Free parking • Free-will donation

Illuminare will present a broad array of works composed between the 12th and 17th centuries in a program that weaves together a magical tapestry of styles, moods, and colors. Hear music by Hildegard von Bingen, Dufay, Brumel, Guerrero, Monteverdi, and others in the superb acoustic of Little Flower's beautiful sanctuary.

CARMINA @ Illuminare

The Soulful Heart of Italy

*with Doug Poplin, violoncello
and Vera Kochanowsky, harpsichord*

Saturday, May 11, 2019, 5 pm

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

Sunday, May 12, 2019, 3 pm

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
6800 Columbia Pike, Annandale VA 22003
Free street parking • Suggested donation: \$20

Seventeenth-century Italy was a hotbed of musical innovation, the fruits of which permeated Europe and beyond. The new Italian music, both secular and sacred, captivated hearts and minds by appealing to passions of the soul. While our focus is on Monteverdi, Mazzocchi, and Alessandro Scarlatti, we also include sacred chamber works by Heinrich Schütz, who through his years of study under Italian masters helped plant the new Italian style in Germany.