

PENN
LIVE
ARTS

UNIVERSITY of
PENNSYLVANIA



Christopher Druker

REGINA CARTER QUARTET

VIOLIN Regina Carter
PIANO Brandon McCune
BASS Chris Lightcap
DRUMS John Lamkin
TOUR MANAGER Marya Glur

FRIDAY, **FEBRUARY 11** @ 8 PM

Annenberg Center, Zellerbach Theatre

There will be no intermission.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Regina Carter

Trying to fit Regina Carter into a neatly defined musical category is pointless. She enjoys performing many styles of music—jazz, R&B, Latin, classical, blues, country, pop, African, and on and on. In each, she explores the power of music through the voice of the violin.

A recipient of the MacArthur “genius” award and a Doris Duke Artist Award, Carter has been widely hailed for her mastery of her instrument and her drive to expand its possibilities. In 2018, she was named artistic director of the Geri Allen Jazz Camp at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, a unique summer immersion program for aspiring women jazz professionals. In December of that year, she was nominated for a Grammy® Award for Best Improvised Solo for “Some of That Sunshine,” the title track on vocalist Karrin Allyson’s album. In 2020, Carter was nominated for Best Improvised Solo for “Pachamama” from Thana Alexa’s album. She is on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music and New Jersey City University and artist in residence at the Oakland University School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. Past positions have included resident artist for San Francisco Performances and resident artistic director for SFJAZZ.

Born in Detroit, Carter began studying violin at the age of four using the Suzuki method. She attended Cass Technical High School in Detroit, and her training continued at the New England Conservatory of Music and at Oakland University in Michigan for jazz. She taught violin in public schools in Detroit and on a U.S. military base in Germany. She first gained attention with Straight Ahead, an all-female jazz quintet that recently celebrated its 25-year reunion at the Detroit Jazz Festival. She also recorded and toured for six years with The String Trio of New York.

In 1995, Carter released her self-titled solo debut on Atlantic Records. Three more albums followed in rapid succession: *Something for Grace* (1997), *Rhythms of the Heart* (1999) and *Motor City Moments* (2000), all on Verve. Traveling to Genoa, Italy, and making history by being the first nonclassical violinist to play Niccolò Paganini’s II Cannone (“The Cannon”), the legendary violin built by Giuseppe Guarneri in 1743, inspired her next effort, *Paganini: After a Dream* (Verve, 2003). *I’ll Be Seeing You: A Sentimental Journey* (Verve, 2006) became a powerful and heartfelt tribute to her late mother. The connection to family, history and tradition continued in *Reverse Thread* (E1 Music, 2010) and *Southern Comfort* (Sony Masterworks, 2014), drawing ties between her own African heritage and her family’s history. In 2017, she released *Ella: Accentuate the Positive* (OKeh, 2017) which celebrates the music and spirit of her inspiration, musical legend Ella Fitzgerald. Her latest recording *Swing States: Harmony In The Battleground* (Tiger Turn Productions E1 Music 2020) is a project that extols the importance of taking part in the democratic process.

Carter also can be heard on such albums as Arturo O’Farrill’s *Fandango at the Wall: A Soundtrack for the United States, Mexico and Beyond*; Stefon Harris’s *Sonic Creed*; John Beasley’s *MONK’estra*, volume 2; and James Carter’s *Caribbean Rhapsody*, along with Eddie Palmieri’s *Listen Here!*, which won a 2005 Grammy® Award for best Latin Jazz album, and the Grammy®-nominated *Freefall* with Kenny Barron.

She has performed at numerous jazz festivals, including Monterey, Newport, Detroit, Atlanta, Bern, Montreux, Miami, New Orleans, Montreal, Mid-Atlantic (Washington, D.C.), PDX (Portland, Oregon), Rochester and North Sea (Rotterdam, the Netherlands). The orchestras she has appeared with include the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo, the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony and the Chicago Sinfonietta. Particularly thrilling was her participation in the 2017 International Jazz Day All-Star Global Concert in Havana, Cuba.

A winner of multiple readers’ and critics’ poll awards from DownBeat, JazzTimes and other publications, Carter tours with her own group and appears frequently as a guest soloist, including with performers such as Kenny Barron, the late bassist Ray Brown, Akua Dixon, Steve Turre, Stefon Harris, George Wein, Mary J. Blige, Cassandra Wilson, Joe Jackson, Billy Joel, Dolly Parton and Omara Portuondo.

Carter has been a Pulitzer Prize jurist three times. She is currently featured in J. Jill’s “Inspired Women” ad campaign.

Carter lives in Maywood, New Jersey, with her husband, drummer Alvester Garnett.