
REGINA CARTER

“Regina Carter creates music that is wonderfully listenable, probingly intelligent and, at times, breathtakingly daring...taking the listener into the future of jazz.” - Time Magazine

Regina Carter’s career has been a veritable crescendo of success that shows no sign of letting up. She is on a mission: to make a meaningful musical contribution and do it on her own terms. Over the past four years, Ms. Carter and her quintet have brought audiences to their feet with exhilarating performances worldwide.

In addition to her ongoing concert touring, Ms. Carter performs a program of music for jazz quintet and orchestra. In this capacity she has appeared with the Minnesota Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, and the Milwaukee Symphony, among others. In December 2001, Ms. Carter became the first jazz artist and the first African-American to be chosen to play Paganini’s famed Guarneri “Cannon” violin, in the city of Genoa, Italy, where it resides under lock and key. She subsequently went back to Genoa to employ the use of the Paganini violin for her recording, *Paganini: After a Dream*. In November 2003, the coveted violin was flown to New York City, where Ms. Carter performed on the instrument one more time at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall to a sold-out crowd. In May 2002, she appeared in a special Boston Pops program, which featured her quintet as well as the world premiere performance of Chris Brubeck’s *Interplay* for three violins, performed with Nadja Salerno-Sonenberg and Eileen Ivers.

Earlier in her career, Regina won acclaim for her solos on Wynton Marsalis’ *Blood On The Fields* tour in 1997, and Cassandra Wilson’s *Travelin’ Miles* concert, at New York’s Lincoln Center in 1998. In his review of the Miles concert for *The New York Times*, critic Peter Watrous took special note of Carter’s contribution: “Ms. Carter is enormously gifted, bringing a blues sensibility to her improvisations, for the rest of the night she was the most effective of the soloists.”

Her influences have ranged from R&B and East Indian to classical music. As a college student, Carter took on a double major in classical music and African American music at both the prestigious New England Conservatory and Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Performance. Carter’s musical experiences in her hometown of Detroit, her association as a member of the Detroit Civic Symphony Orchestra, and performances with the pop, funk group Brainstorm, all provided the needed experience to record with artists ranging from pop icons Aretha Franklin and Patti Labelle, to legendary jazz pianist Kenny Barron and Pulitzer prize-winning Wynton Marsalis. She has also recorded with some of the new divas in the R&B arena, including Mary J. Blige and Lauryn Hill.

Internationally acclaimed as among the most transcendent voices of contemporary violin, Regina Carter has been widely recognized for her accomplishments. In the spring of 2006 she received an honorary Doctorate from Albion College; in the fall of that year she was awarded the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship. In 2007, Regina was recipient of the International Society for the Performing Arts Distinguished Artist Award.

Regina has seven discs under her own name: *Regina Carter* (1995), *Something For Grace* (1997), *Rhythms of the Heart* (1999), *Motor City Moments* (2000), *Freefall* (a collaboration with pianist Kenny Barron that was nominated for a Grammy®, 2001), *Paganini: After a Dream* (2003), and *I’ll Be Seeing You: A Sentimental Journey* (2006). Her latest, *Reverse Thread*, was released in January 2010.

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