

# Conductorless Camerata to Perform in Lebanon

By WARREN JOHNSTON  
Valley News Staff Writer

**T**HE UPPER VALLEY'S ONLY professional chamber ensemble opens its inaugural concert season next week in Lebanon with a new name, a new structure and no conductor.

The 15-member Camerata New England, which changed its name last spring from the Hanover Chamber Orchestra, brings together some of the best musicians available in New England and the surrounding area, said Carlos Galvan, who is chairman of the board of directors.

"We've tried to identify the finest players in Boston and elsewhere, and we've had lots of interests from all over the country. For example, we have violinists from New York City and Seattle," Galvan said.

Ensemble members include principal violinist Krista Reischer, who has been the concertmaster with Opera Boston; principal violinist Jae Young Cosmos Lee, who is the assistant concertmaster with the Boston Philharmonic; principal cellist

Linda Galvan, who was a member of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra and a soloist with orchestras in Europe and Canada; principal violist Peter Sulski, who was a member of the London Symphony Orchestra for seven years; principal double bass player Anthony D'Amico, who is a member of the Boston Philharmonic as well as other New England orchestras and harpsichordist and pianist Evelyn Zuckerman, who has played with the Boston Pops and the Boston, San Jose and

Linda Galvan, principal cellist,  
Camerata  
New England

Honolulu Symphony orchestras.

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In addition to ensemble members, the opening concert features guests Grammy Award nominee and flutist Karen Kevra and flutist Sue-Ellen Hershman-Tcherepnin, who was a soloist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and has performed in major venues throughout the world.

The Hanover Chamber Orchestra was started in 1976 and functioned primarily as the orchestra playing with Dartmouth College's Handel Society. Last year, the Hanover Chamber played its first independent season. The ensemble was based at the Lebanon Opera House and at Plymouth State University and was under the direction of conductor Dan Perkins. In the spring, orchestra officials decided to become a more flexible ensemble of 15 string players, who could play as a full group or break into chamber ensembles that could play in smaller venues. They also decided to make the Opera House the orchestra's permanent home.

Not only are many of the players new with the orchestra, but the ensemble also decided to play without a conductor this season. The move gives individual musicians an opportunity to work in a less structured environment and to be more creative.

Working in an orchestra without a conductor allows, "individual musicians to feel that they're not just a cog in the wheel," said principal cellist Linda Galvan.

"As a member of a big orchestra, you have to pare down your playing to fit what the conductor wants out of the orchestra. You're not free to express your own sense of musicality, and there's no spontaneity. It's very restrictive.

"That's why people are interested in being part of a group like Camerata New England. The music is much more lively, and there's a sense of interaction among the musicians and real energy. I think audiences sense what the musicians are feeling," Linda Galvan said.

By being a traditional string chamber ensemble with five first violins, four second violins, three violas, two cellos and a bass, Camerata has the flexibility to break down into more than one group that can play in such smaller venues as a church.

The ensemble has a strong outreach program. Last year the group found there were a limited number of large places, particularly in the North County or New Hampshire, where the orchestra could play. But there was an abundance of smaller venues available.

"Now, we can play in some of those beautiful historic churches that have terrific acoustics," Carlos Galvan said, noting that the Camerata players also will be able to go into the schools to reach a younger audience with a smaller ensemble.

The opening concert, *All Bach, All the Time*, features the *Brandenburg Concertos 3, 4, 5 and 6* and *Orchestral Suite No. 1*. The performance is Saturday, Sept. 12, at 7:30 in the Lebanon Opera House. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$18 for seniors, and children under 18 are free. Call (603) 448-0400.