

**Carillon Faculty Recital  
Dr. Laura Ellis  
Century Tower  
Gainesville, Florida  
Sunday, January 21 2007  
3:00 p.m.**

Passacaille from Suite VII, for harpsichord	George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) trans. by Albert Gerken
Autumn Showers	Robin Dinda (b. 1959)
Folk Songs from the British Isles I. The Bells of Aberdovey (Welsh) II. Ye Banks and Braes O'Bonnie Doon (Scottish) III. Londonderry Air (Irish)	settings by Sally Slade Warner
Profil Canadien No. 2	Emilien Allard (1915-1977)
Suite in Popular Suite I. Ragtime Bells II. Ballad III. Blues for Bells IV. The Winners	John Courter (b. 1941)

*Laura Ellis*

The carillon is performed daily while classes are in session from 12:35 – 12:50 p.m. The Sunday Afternoon Concert Series continues with programs on February 18, March 4, April 15, and May 20 at 3:00 p.m. For more information about these performances, please visit the carillon website: [www.arts.ufl.edu/carillon](http://www.arts.ufl.edu/carillon)

***About the Performer***

**Laura Ellis** serves the University of Florida as associate professor in the School of Music. Dr. Ellis teaches undergraduate and graduate organ, harpsichord, and carillon. In addition to her duties as university organist, Ellis serves as curator for the Andrew Anderson Memorial Pipe Organ in the University Auditorium, the Carillon in the Century Tower, and the historic keyboard instruments housed in the School of Music.

A native of Minnesota, Ellis is a magna cum laude graduate of Luther College (Decorah, Iowa) and holds a Master of Music degree in church music and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance from the University of Kansas. Her major organ teachers have

been William Kuhlman and James Higdon. While in residence at the University of Kansas, she studied carillon with Albert Gerken.

Prior to her Florida appointment, Ellis served as professor of music at McMurry University and held the position of parish organist at the Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest in Abilene, TX. Ellis began her teaching career at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas.

Recital engagements as organist have included appearances with the Jacksonville (FL) Symphony, Piccolo Spoleto (Charleston, SC), Westminster Abbey, and various locations throughout Florida, Texas, and the South. In addition to her performances on the carillon in Century Tower on the University of Florida campus, Ellis has performed solo carillon recitals at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, the University of Toronto, and the Metropolitan Church, Toronto.

### ***About the Carillon***

Century Tower, a monument constructed in 1953 in memory of students killed in World War I and World War II, houses a cast-bell carillon. By definition, a carillon must have at least 23 fixed, finely tuned bells. The Century Tower Carillon has 61 bells, encompassing a range of 5 octaves, and is one of the largest university carillons in the United States. There are fewer than 200 carillons in all of North America, and only four can be found in the state of Florida.

The carillon is played by hand from a clavier or keyboard, with 61 keys (called “batons”) for the hands as well as 25 pedals for the feet, in a small room just below the bell chamber. The carillonneur moves the clappers of the bells with the batons and pedals while the bells remain stationary.

Through the efforts of Professor Emeritus Willis Bodine, the world-class carillon housed in Century Tower was purchased for approximately \$200,000 with funds accumulated from student fees over several generations of students. These funds were earmarked by the Board of Regents and the Legislature for campus improvements in the performing arts. The carillon purchase was endorsed unanimously by the Student Senate in 1976.

The original 49 bells housed on the top floor of the tower were cast in 1978 by the firm of Koninklijke Eijsbouts (Royal Dutch Bell Foundry) of Asten, The Netherlands. The bronze bells were tuned at the foundry by carefully shaving metal from the interior of the bells and will never need re-tuning. The bells are hung individually from stainless steel bolts on a massive steel frame. The largest bell, the “bourdon,” stands five feet tall, is five feet in diameter and weighs about 7,000 pounds.

A \$450,000 gift from the estate of Larry A. Webb of St. Augustine, FL, made possible major upgrading of the carillon in 2002. The renovation, carried out by Eijsbouts, included the installation of 12 additional bells (for a total of 61), improvements in the playing action, and new performance and practice claviers.