

CARILLON RECITAL
Milford Myhre, Guest Carillonneur
Sunday, September 13, 2009
3:00 p.m.
Century Tower

PROGRAM

PRELUDE & FUGUE (1975) for carillon Albert C. Gerken
(b. 1937)

18th-century favorites

SHEEP MAY SAFELY GRAZE (Cantata 208)¹ Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

EIN MÄDCHEN ODER WEIBCHEN (Die Zauberflöte)² Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Music for carillon

VARIATIONS ON THE FLEMISH SONG,
“DIE ALDER SOETSTE JESUS” [The Most Beloved Jesus] (1978) Sally Slade Warner
(b. 1932)
THREE DESIGNS (1960-61) Milford Myhre
(b. 1931)

Music from folklore

YE BANKS AND BRAES O’ BONNIE DOON³ Scotland
SUITE FRANÇAISE⁴ France

- Aupres de ma blonde (Touraine)
- Chanson de Lingères (Querçy)
- Chanson pour passez le temps (Normandie)
- l’Air de Petit Quinquin (Nord)

MUSS I DENN (Swabia) Germany

FREE VARIATIONS ON “KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS” Ulla Laage
[Built on the Rock ...] (1988) for carillon (b. 1949)

Arrangements other than by the recitalist are identified by the following footnotes:

¹Theophil Rusterholz - former carillonneur at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN.

²Percival Price - America’s first professional carillonneur, who held the position at the University of Michigan for many years.

³Sally Slade Warner - carillonneur at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Cohasset, MA.

⁴Jacques Lannoy - former City Carillonneur and Director of the French Carillon School in Douai, France.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Gerken’s *Prelude and Fugue* is inspired by an 18th-century form, with special awareness for the harmonic strengths and limitations of the carillon.

* This selection was played on the dedication recital of this carillon. It features the magic bell music from this delightful opera.

Warner's ingenious variations on this ancient Flemish song comment on each of the four verses with appropriate quotations from Gregorian chant (e.g. Ave Maria, Salve Regina, Stabat Mater dolorosa, etc.) Also, she artfully utilizes the various pitch ranges of the instrument.

The first two of *Three Designs* are an experiment with 12-tone atonal writing. The third has a sub-title "Lament," and is played in memory of my esteemed colleague, Jim Smith (whose memorial service was yesterday at Mercersburg Academy, PA.)

The folksong arrangements were selected to demonstrate the great variety of mood and sonic beauty that is possible on the carillon.

Laage's free variations on this popular Scandinavian hymn make use of the octatonic scale (alternating whole-steps and half-steps) that is particularly effective in carillon music due to the strong minor-third partial in bells. Composed for the modern Fritzen carillon in the famous *Vor Frelserkerk* in central Copenhagen (the one with the spiral stair on the outside of the spire!), this piece reveals Ms. Laage's intimate knowledge of the instrument over which she presided for more than thirty years.




Milford Myhre is Carillonneur Emeritus of Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, Florida. He was appointed on January 1, 1968, and retired on June 30, 2004. While an undergraduate at the University of Nebraska, he was carillonneur/asst. organist at First-Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. He was organist/carillonneur at Culver Academies (Indiana) from 1957-67. His musical training was obtained at the University of Nebraska, the University of Michigan, and briefly at the Mechelen Carillon School in Belgium. He studied organ with Myron Roberts, André Marchal, Robert Noehren, and Marilyn Mason. His carillon mentors were Ronald Barnes, Staf Nees, and Percival Price.

Myhre has given recitals extensively throughout North America, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. In 1983, during the second Carillon Festival at the University of California, Berkeley, he was awarded the Berkeley Medal in recognition of his distinguished contribution to the carillon art. He was also awarded an Honorary Doctor of Music from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, in May 2004. Following his retirement, he played guest recitals in Denmark, a re-dedication of the Riverside Church carillon in New York City, and of the Rockefeller Chapel carillon at the University of Chicago.

Active in The Guild of Carillonneurs in North America since 1953, Myhre served many years as a member of the Board of Directors and as President. He was made an honorary member of "La Guilde des Carillonneurs de France" in 1973 and of The Guild of Carillonneurs in North America in 2004. He helped to create the World Carillon Federation in 1974 and served as its President from 1982 to 1990.

A faculty member and recitalist at six summer carillon master classes at the Løgumkloster (Denmark) Church Music School, he has presented master classes on carillon performance and on arranging carillon music on three continents.

There are three CD recordings by Milford Myhre available at the Tower & Garden Gift Shop at Historic Bok Sanctuary: "A Carillon Recital at the Bok Singing Tower" and "Christmas Carillon from Bok Tower Gardens" (originally released by Musical Heritage Society). The third CD, *Sacred Selections for Carillon*, is now available. A fourth CD featuring the carillon compositions of Roy Hamlin Johnson is in process.



The Sunday Afternoon Concert Series continues with recitals on October 18, November 15 (guest carillonneur Geert D'hollander), and December 13 at 3:00 p.m. The carillon is performed daily while classes are in session from 12:35 to 12:50 p.m. The daily series will resume on Monday, August 24, 2009.

2009 marks the 30th anniversary year of the installation the bells in Century Tower. First performed on May 14, 1979, the carillon has become a part of the daily life of the university. Please join us in celebrating “Music from the Tower!”

For more information about carillon performances
please visit the carillon website: www.arts.ufl.edu/carillon

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.