



UF Carillon Conference
Century Tower
The University of Florida
Saturday, February 10, 2024
1:55 PM

*Featuring music written and performed
by UF carillon studio members and alumni*

Original Compositions for Carillon

*Tide-swept

Michael Dixon (b. 2003)

MICHAEL DIXON

“Spring” from *Seasons of the Wind Chime*

Cherise Leiter

ANDREW LYONS

Triskaphobia

Mitchell Stecker (b. 1992)

BETH BLAIR

Three Short Pieces

Zachary Zaroogian (b. 1999)

ZACHARY ZAROOOGIAN

#Albireo

Michael Dixon (b. 2003)

RAYYAN MERCHANT

Inspired by hymns and spirituals

O Waly Waly

Cherise Leiter

LIZ STOEBER

Spiraculum Vitae
Deep River

Mitchell Stecker (b. 1992)
Lee Cobb (b. 1963)

MITCHELL STECKER

Arrangements

Colors of the Wind from *Pocahontas*

Alan Menken (b. 1949), arr. Cólón-Ortiz

MARK ZHANG

Chim Chim Cheree

Robert B. Sherman (1925-2012) & Richard M. Sherman (b. 1928), arr. Sommer
THAIRA SOMMER

Skylark
El Coqui (Danza Puertorriqueña)

Johnny Mercer (1909-1976) & Hoagy Carmichael (1899-1981), arr. Sommer
José Ingacio Quintón (1881-1925), arr. Colón-Ortiz

ANNA HUBER

University of Florida Alma Mater

Milton L. Yeats (composed 1925)
arr. Bodine/Ellis/Blair/Huber

BETH BLAIR & ANNA HUBER

*World Premiere, *Commissioned by the UF Carillon Conference*

#World Premiere

Dixon & Merchant were awarded the 2023-2024 Composer-Performer Pair Grant from The Guild of Carillonneurs in North America to support the creation and performance of this work

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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 traditional carillons in all of North America, and only three 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.