The 19th Annual Muelder Summer Carillon Recital Series

Ray McLellan
University Carillonneur, MSU

Wednesday, July 1st, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.
Beaumont Tower
Program

I. Americana
   Star Spangled Banner       John S. Smith
   America, the Beautiful     Samuel A. Ward
   When Johnny Comes Marching Home  Louis Lambert
   Over There                George M. Cohan

II. Late Renaissance, Baroque and Classical Transcriptions for Carillon
    Fantasia en echo (from “Der Fluyten Lust-hof”)  Jacob van Eyck

    From Partita III for Unaccompanied Violin  Johann Sebastian Bach
       Preludio

    Drie “Kegelduetten”         Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
       I. Allegro
       II. Andante
       III. Menuett-allegretto

III. Songs by Stephen Foster (1826 – 1864)
    Old Folks at Home
    Gentle Annie
    Beautiful Dreamer

IV. Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Sound of Music
    The Sound of Music       Richard Rogers
    My Favorite Things       Richard Rogers
    Climb Every Mountain     Richard Rogers

V. Christmas in July
   Carol of the Bells       Mykola Leontovych
   Silver Bells             Jay Livingstone & Ray Evans
   Masters in This Hall     French Tune

VI. Red Peppers – Ragtime Two-Step  Imogene Giles

Arrangements and Transcriptions by:

I.  a. b. & c. Milford Myhre; d. Robert Lodine
II. a. & c. Johan Wagenaar; b. Albert Gerken
III. a. & b. Sally Slade Warner; c. M. Myhre
IV. a. John Courter; b & c. Richard Gisczcak
V.  a. A. Gerken; b. Richard von Grabow; c. M. Myhre
VI. Wm. C. McHarris

A single bell will sound the numbers.

Please hold your applause until the end of the concert.
Ray McLellan, was appointed University Carillonneur at Michigan State University, where he teaches and performs on the 49-bell Beaumont Tower Carillon. McLellan earned his BA degree at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, MM and DMA degrees from University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He also studied in Freiburg, Germany and Amersfoort, The Netherlands. In addition to his work at MSU, Dr. McLellan serves as organist/music director at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Monroe, and as organist/pianist at Temple Beth Emeth in Ann Arbor. He has performed recitals in the USA, Canada, The Netherlands, France and Germany. McLellan currently serves on the exam committee and is co-chair of the Barnes committee of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America.

Program Notes

I. July 4th, we celebrate our Independence and the birthday of our country—our National Day. This time of year brings to mind fireworks, parades, picnics and concerts. In addition to patriotic spirit, we are reminded of times of war and the struggles to maintain our independence.

II. There is much of music throughout history that can be transcribed to play on carillon. Jacob van Eyck was influential in helping the Hemony Brothers to tune carillon bells. They were the greatest bellfounders of carillons. J. van Eyck became the Carillonneur of the Dom Tower in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

So much of Bach’s music works well when transcribed for the carillon. The Partitas for unaccompanied violin all start with a Preludio or Overture, followed then by various dance movements. This Preludio from Partita III, is quite exuberant.

These 3 duets by Mozart also adapt well for carillon. By transcribing/arranging well-loved pieces, the carillon repertoire has been greatly expanded.

III. Stephen Foster was an American songwriter known for his parlor and minstrel music. Old Folks at Home is the official state song of Florida, but was modified because of racial lyrics. Gentle Annie is said to be based on a traditional Irish melody. Beautiful Dreamer was composed late in Foster’s life, when he was destitute and in poor health, and survived by selling songs at extremely cheap rates.

IV. Can you believe it’s been 50 years since the film The Sound of Music was released?

V. Christmas in July-----maybe the sound of music normally heard in December will give us cooler thoughts in July. We produced a Christmas/Holiday CD at MSU and it can be purchased in front of the tower.

VI. Red Peppers is the only rag known to have been published by Imogene Giles. Bill McHarris, professor emeritus of Chemistry and Physics at Michigan State University, is also an assistant carillonneur at MSU. Bill is an avid performer of ragtime music and performs at Rag festivals all over North America.

2015 MSU Summer Carillon Series – Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

July 1 – Ray McLellan, University Carillonneur, MSU
July 8 – Gijsbert Kok, The Netherlands
July 16 – Duo Recital: Janet Tebbel and Lisa Lonnie, Philadelphia, PA
July 22 – Toru Takao, Japan and Germany
July 29 – Oleysa Rostovskaya, Russia
August 5 – Sally Harwood, Assistant Carillonneur, MSU
The Beaumont Tower Carillon at Michigan State University

A carillon is a musical instrument consisting of at least two octaves of carillon bells arranged in chromatic series and played from a keyboard (clavier) that permits control of expression through variation of touch.

The MSU carillon contains 49 bells and is capable of playing the full range of literature composed for the instrument. The first ten bells were installed in the new Beaumont Tower in 1928. Thirteen additional bells were installed so that the instrument became a carillon in 1935. The smallest bell weighs about 15 pounds; the largest weighs 2½ tons. The carillon and tower were completely renovated in 1996.

The carillon clavier is located on the fourth floor of the tower, behind the clocks and near the bells. To play the bells, the carillonneur’s loosely closed fists strike the wooden keys and the carillonneur’s feet depress the foot pedals. When the keys and pedals are depressed, wires move the clappers to hit the bells and the bells sound. The more force used in moving the clappers, the louder the bells sound. There is only mechanical assistance involved in playing music on the instrument. One never hears recorded music from the tower. Twenty-seven bells have a hammer on the outside. These bells, activated by a computer, strike the Westminster Quarters every 15 minutes during the day and play MSU Shadows daily. A carillon practice clavier is located on the ground floor of the tower. Here, students prepare to perform on the carillon.

The carillon itself was developed in the 15th and 16th centuries in the area of Europe that is now Holland, Belgium and northern France. Presently, there are about 185 carillons in North America, with new ones being installed each year; it is a growing art. There are 14 carillons in Michigan: MSU and Central United Methodist Church in Lansing; two at U-M and GVSU; and others in several churches in the greater Detroit area. The newest one was dedicated last September at Oakland University in Rochester, MI.

Volunteer assistant carillonneurs play noon recitals on various days during the week. They also play for special tours and events. Beaumont Tower volunteers are an invaluable resource in representing the carillon when the university carillonneur is unavailable.

The Muelder Summer Carillon Series was established in 1996 through the generosity of Drs. Milton E. and Kathleen D. Muelder, as a gift to all who enjoy carillon music. Dr. Milton Muelder served as educator, researcher and administrator at MSU for over 40 years.

Located in the West Circle Drive oval area, the Beaumont Tower will be open after each recital for two short tours limited to about 35 people each, allowing you to see a demonstration of how the carillon is played. Recital attendees are welcome to bring a picnic during the recitals. All tours and recitals are FREE!

Want to play the Carillon in Beaumont Tower?
If you are interested in taking Carillon lessons, and have keyboard skills, contact University Carillonneur, Dr. Ray McLellan at: rm@msu.edu