



Carillon Recitals
Century Tower
The University of Florida
Sunday, April 16, 2023
1:55 PM

Alex Johnson
Guest Artist

A SPECTRUM OF CONTEMPORARY CARILLON MUSIC

Selections from *Ludus Modalis*

I. Spring Morning
IV. Reflection
VII. Dreaming

Geert D'hollander (b. 1965)

MUSIC ON NATURE

Mountain Pastorale
Rustic Landscape
The Sacredness of Trees

Laura Hewitt Whipple (1920-2005)

John Pozdro (1923-2009)

Ellen Lindquist (b. 1970)

A Whimsy, from *Serenade I*

Ronald Barnes (1927-1997)

THREE BELOVED ARRANGEMENTS

Je Te Veux
Verano Porteño
Nocturne op. 9, no. 2

Erik Satie (1866-1925), arr. Alex Johnson

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992), arr. Johnson

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849), arr. Joey Brink

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About the Performer

Alex Johnson (b. 1997) is currently the University Carillonist of the University of Chicago. In this role, he teaches a studio of about 20 students and regularly plays the 72-bell 100-ton Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Carillon housed in Rockefeller Memorial Chapel. Alex serves on multiple committees of the nonprofit, The Guild of Carillonneurs in North America, and he is an avid composer, improviser, and supporter of new music. Previously, Alex has taught carillon at the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Rochester. He also taught high school math in Austin, Texas. Alex studied carillon at the Royal Carillon School “Jef Denyn” in Belgium, at Bok Tower Gardens in Florida, and at the University of Rochester, from where he actually obtained a degree in physics. In 2019, he won 1st Prize at the most prestigious carillon competition, the 8th International Queen Fabiola Carillon Competition. Alex has also dabbled in mbira, gamelan, and several forms of dance.

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The carillon will be performed Monday thru Friday from 12:35-12:50PM & 4:55-5:10PM through Wednesday, April 26. Final exams will be performed during the week of May 1-5 from 12:05-12:25 & 5:05-5:25PM.

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

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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.