



Carillon Recitals

Century Tower

The University of Florida
Friday, December 15, 2023
6:15 PM

Rayyan Merchant

TWO 18TH CENTURY ARRANGEMENTS

Tambourin
Ballet Rustique (from *Richard Cœur de Lion*)

Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683-1764) arr. Galina Elshaeva
André Grétry (1741-1813)
arr. Marie-Madeleine Crickboom

TWO DUTCH ORIGINALS FOR CARILLON

Preludium in C (a la Jef Denijn)
St. Martin de Tours

Marcel Siebers (b. 1955)
Lennart Siebers (b. 1988)

TWO WELL-KNOWN ARRANGEMENTS

Finlandia (“Be Still My Soul”)
The Frog Galliard

Jean Sieblius (1865-1957) arr. Don Cook
John Dowland (1563-1626) arr. Jeff Davis

TWO BELGIAN ORIGINALS FOR CARILLON

Preambulum (from *Modale Suite*)
Rhythmendans (“Rythmical Dance”)

Ghislaine Pouseele (1925-2017)
Staf Nees (1901-1965)

TWO GERMAN ORIGINALS FOR CARILLON

Himmlische Stimmung (from Berlin Carillon Suite)
Warum? (Trauer und Erinnerung)

Martin Torp (b. 1957)
Gunther Strothmann (b. 1934)

TWO AMERICAN ORIGINALS FOR CARILLON

Stage One (from Five Stages for Carillon)
On the San Antonio River

Sean Duffy
Robert Byrnes (1949-2009)

CLOSING

Image No. 3, Comptine (“Lullaby”)
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Stefano Colletti (1973)
Hugh Martin/Ralph Blane, arr. Gideon Bodden

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Please join us for the final program of the Fall concert series!
Saturday, December 16, 7:30PM: Florida Carillon Festival, Dick van Dijk (Netherlands)

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

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About the Performer

Rayyan Merchant is a 5th-year undergraduate student at the University of Florida, graduating with a B.S. in Computer Science and a B.A. in Linguistics. Rayyan came to the carillon from a classical vocal performance background in high school and has been studying carillon at UF with Dr. Laura Ellis since Spring 2021. While studying abroad in Aachen, Germany in 2022, Rayyan regularly performed on the carillon of the Aachener Rathaus and received instruction from Dr. Luc Rombouts of the Belgian Royal Carillon School.

Most recently, the Guild of Carillonneurs of North America awarded Rayyan and fellow carillon student Michael Dixon (?25) a Johan Franco Student Composer-Performer Grant to collaborate on a new composition for carillon, to be premiered in 2024. Following graduation, Rayyan will be staying in Gainesville to digitize and catalogue UF’s extensive carillon music collection, and he hopes to continue his carillon studies at the Royal Carillon School in Belgium.

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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.