



# School of **MUSIC**

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Helen Hofmeister, carillon  
Guest Artist

Sunday, April 10, 2022  
Century Tower  
1:55 p.m.

## Program

*All music today is transcribed or composed by Albert Gerken (b. 1938)  
University Carillonneur at the  
University of Kansas from 1963 through 2000*

### *Piano Music*

Leyenda Isaac Albéniz (1860-1909)  
Gymnodépie No. 1 Erik Satie (1866-1925)

### *Baroque Music*

Preludio from *Partita III for Solo Violin* J. S. Bach (1685-1750)  
Gavotte en Rondeau from *Partita III for Solo Violin*  
Prelude from *Suite I for Unaccompanied Cello*

Passacaille from *Suite VII for Harpsichord* G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

### *Original Compositions*

Pastel in Bronze  
Prelude for Carillon

### *Arrangements*

Somewhere Over the Rainbow  
Eighteen Variations on *Chopsticks*

For more information about carillon performances,  
please visit the carillon website: [www.arts.ufl.edu/carillon](http://www.arts.ufl.edu/carillon)

The carillon is performed Monday thru Friday from 12:35-12:50 & 4:55-5:10  
when classes are in session. During exam week, carillonneurs perform  
their final exams from 12:05-12:25 & 5:05-5:25.

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## Program Notes

Late in his career, Albert Gerken transcribed *Leyenda* for carillon. This piece was originally written for piano and is often heard on the guitar. It works extremely well on the carillon and has achieved instant popularity with all who have heard it performed.

Baroque solo string literature also works well on the carillon because of its clarity of line and slow harmonic rhythm. Those two elements are effective because they embrace the slow decay of the carillon bells rather than emphasizing the possible dissonances of both a thicker texture and more rapid harmonic changes.

*Pastel in Bronze* and *Prelude* were composed by Gerken at a point in his career when he felt that there was a shortage of new carillon pieces of quality. They have since become standard works in the carillon literature.

The final two pieces have very familiar themes!

## About the Performer

Helen Hofmeister received her carillon instruction at the University of Kansas as a student of Albert Gerken. She is a carillonneur member of the GCNA (Guild of Carillonneurs in North America) and is a past member of the GCNA Board, the Exam Committee, and the Barnes Scholarship Committee. She has performed carillon recitals in sixteen states, as well as Belgium and the Netherlands, including International Festivals in Springfield, Illinois, and at the Bok Tower in Lake Wales, Florida. She represented the GCNA with a recital at the World Carillon Congress at St. Rombouts in Mechelen, Belgium, and has played GCNA Congress recitals at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, and at Clemson University in South Carolina.

Helen holds both her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in organ performance from the University of Kansas and has done post-graduate study in Cologne, Germany as a recipient of the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) scholarship awarded through the Fulbright Committee. She was on the Executive Planning Committee for the Regional AGO (American Guild of Organists) Convention held in Grand Rapids in 2019 and has served on the state board of the ACDA (American Choral Directors Association). She currently serves as Minister of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, a position she has held since 2006, where she directs the adult choir, the high school choir, the middle school choir, and is the principal organist. In addition, she oversees the entire music program there which also includes three children's choirs, a wind ensemble and a string ensemble.

## 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 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 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 clavier.