FACULTY RECITAL

CARILLON RECITAL
Dr. Laura Ellis
Sunday, August 19, 2007
3:00 p.m.
Century Tower
PROGRAM

A Country Collage
   I. The Manor House
   II. Bird Cage Waltz
   III. Memorial Stone
   IV. Woodland Glade
   V. Village Carnival

Geoffrey Cook
(b. 1948)

Pastel in Bronze

Albert Gerken
(b. 1937)

In the Field There Stands a Birch Tree

M. I. Glinka
(1804-1857)
arr. Ronald Barnes

We’ll Meet Beside the Dusky Glen

Scottish Folk Song
arr. Barnes

I Walk in a Thousand Thoughts

Swedish Folk Song
arr. Wendell Westcott

The Little Red Lark

Irish Folk Song
arr. Westcott

Suite in Popular Style
   I. Ragtime Bells
   II. Ballad
   III. Blues for Bells
   IV. The Winners

John Courter
(b. 1941)

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The Sunday Afternoon Concert Series continues with recitals on September 16, October 21, November 18, and December 16 at 3:00 p.m. The daily carillon series will resume on Thursday, August 23 with daily performances from 12:35 – 12:50 p.m.

For more information about carillon performances please visit the carillon website: www.arts.ufl.edu/carillon
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 carillons in all of North America, and only four 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.

Performer Biography

Dr. Laura Ellis serves the University of Florida as an associate professor of music and teaches undergraduate and graduate organ, harpsichord and carillon. Dr. Ellis is a graduate of Luther College (Decorah, Iowa) and holds the MM and DMA degrees from the University of Kansas. Prior to her Florida appointment, she held faculty positions in Texas and Arkansas.

During her time at the University of Kansas, Ellis studied carillon with Albert Gerken. She is currently Director of the Music and Publications Committee of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America. Her carillon/organ recital tour of Australia in October 2007 will include appearances in Sydney and Canberra.