CARILLON RECITAL

Dr. Laura Ellis

Sunday, March 16, 2008
3:00 p.m.
Century Tower

PROGRAM

Seven Modal Pieces      John Courter
  I.           Ionian Mode         (b. 1941)
  II.          Dorian Mode
  III.         Phrygian Mode
  IV.          Lydian
  V.           Mixolydian
  VI.          Aeolian
  VII.         Locrian

Reflections from the Tower     Emma Lou Diemer
                                (b. 1927)

Southern Triptych      Geert D’hollander
  I.         Pentatonic Pastoral   (b. 1965)
  II.        Evening Meditation
  III.       Improvisation

Sonatine II       Sjef van Balkom
  I.          Andante            (1922-2004)
  II.         Allegretto
  III.        Adagio
  IV.         Allegro
              Andante (reprise)

The Sunday Afternoon Concert Series continues with recitals on April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, and August 17 at 3:00 p.m. The daily carillon series is performed while classes are in session from 12:35 – 12:50 p.m.

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

Laura Ellis serves the University of Florida as associate professor in the School of Music. Dr. Ellis teaches undergraduate and graduate organ, harpsichord, and carillon. In addition to her duties as university organist, Ellis serves as curator for the Andrew Anderson Memorial Pipe Organ in the University Auditorium, the Carillon in the Century Tower, and the historic keyboard instruments housed in the School of Music.

In addition to her regular performances on the carillon in Century Tower on the University of Florida campus, Ellis has performed solo carillon recitals at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, the University of Chicago, the Millennium Carillon (Naperville, IL), the Chicago Botanic Gardens, the University of Toronto, and the Metropolitan Church, Toronto. Recital engagements as organist have included appearances with the Jacksonville (FL) Symphony, Piccolo Spoleto (Charleston, SC), Westminster Abbey, and various locations throughout Florida, Texas, and the South.

In October 2007 Ellis traveled to Australia for a series of five recitals, including a solo organ recital on the Great Hall Organ at the University of Sydney. She also performed solo carillon recitals at the University of Sydney and at the National Carillon in the capital city of Canberra. In summer 2008 Ellis will perform two recitals as part of the 47th International Carillon Festival in Springfield, Illinois, and will appear in recital at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Spokane, Washington.

Ellis is active in the Guild of Carillonneurs of North America (GCNA) and holds the position of director of the Music and Publications Committee. In addition, she currently serves the American Guild of Organists as District Convener for the state of Florida and Dean of the Gainesville (FL) chapter.

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.