Kelsey Grabach, Carillon

Sunday, May 10, 2015
3:00PM
Century Tower
Program

Toccata for 42 Bells (1956)  Robert Moore  (b. 1921)

Musetta’s Waltz from La Bohème  Giacomo Puccini  (1858-1924)
Arranged by Sally Slade Warner

Giga (No. 96)  François Couperin  (1668-1733)
Arranged by Joannes De Gruytters

Sonorities (from Suite No. 1)  John Courter  (1941-2010)

Toccata No. 2 (from Three Short Pieces)  John Gouwens  (b. 1957)

The Mushroom Chimneys of Park Güell (from Gaudi’s Chimneys)  John Courter  (1941-2010)

Lift Every Voice and Sing  J. Rosamond Johnson  (1873-1954)
Arranged by John Courter

Prayer (from Five Short Pieces for carillon)  Leen t’ Hart  (1920-1992)


“Auld Lang Syne-ing Off”  Arranged by Kelsey Grabach, Ronald Barnes, Lee Cobb
A tribute to the Class of 2015

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The Sunday Afternoon Concert Series continues with programs at 3PM on June 14 (Melissa Likamwa & Katie VanDeventer), July 12 (Philippe Beullens/Belgium), and August 23 (Laura Ellis). The daily performance schedule will resume on August 24.

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

Kelsey Grabach graduated from the University of Florida in the spring class of 2015 with degrees in Business Administration and Spanish. She played trombone in the UF Fightin' Gators Marching Band for four years and has studied piano for 14 years. Kelsey started learning the carillon and joined the UF Carillon Studio just over a year ago after going on a tour of Century Tower. Since then she has played at Bok Tower, Wesley College, Denver University, Clemson University, The Citadel, Furman University, Mariemont Ohio, and many smaller chimes. Kelsey has applied to be an Associate Member in the Guild of Carillonneurs of North America and will be starting a career in Human Resources this summer.

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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 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 retuning. 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.