Philippe Beullens

Guest Carillonneur

Sunday, July 12, 2015
3:00PM
Century Tower
Program

1. Aria from “Prince Igor”  
   Aleksandr Borodin  
   (1833-1887)  
   arr. Philippe Beullens

2. My heart feels very sad (Russian love song)  
   Tikhon Nikolaevich Khrennikov  
   (1913-2007)  
   arr. Jo Haazen

3. The nightingale  
   Aleksander Alyabyev (1787-1851)  
   arr. Jo Haazen

4. Vocalise  
   Sergej Rachmaninov (1873-1943)  
   arr. Jo Haazen

5. Menuet, aria and gigue  
   from “The Gruytter’s” Carillon Book  
   Antwerp, Belgium 1746

6. Siciliana  
   Joost Boutmy (1697-1779)  
   arr. Jo Haazen

7. Love said goodbye  
   Nino Rota (1911-1979)  
   arr. Richard De Waardt

8. Ne me quitte pas (don’t leave me)  
   Jacques Brel (1929-1978)  
   arr. Philippe Beullens

9. American Patrol  
   Frank W. Meacham (1850-1896) arr. Philippe Beullens

10. She’s always a woman to me  
    Billy Joel (b. 1949)  
    arr. Philippe Beullens

11. Heal the world  
    Michael Jackson (1958-2009)  
    arr. Philippe Beullens

12. Wem Gott will rechte Gunst erweisen  
    Austrian folktune  
    arr. Jo Haazen
Program Notes

Aria from “Prince Igor”
Aleksandr Borodin (1833-1887), arr. Philippe Beullens

This well known tune is part of the “Polovtsian Dances”: perhaps the best known parts of Borodin’s opera “Prince Igor”. The Polovtsian dances are very often performed as stand-alone concert pieces. Borodin was the original composer, but the opera was left unfinished at his death and was subsequently completed by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov and Aleksandr Glazunov. In the opera, the dances are performed with a chorus. The carillon version of this piece, has been created by Jo Haazen (one of Philippe’s carillon teachers) although he never actually wrote it down on paper. At the end of his carillon study, Philippe decided to write down this piece after watching carefully how Jo played it. He then handed over the score to Jo Haazen at the time of his retirement as a carillon professor. Jo liked the score so much, that he is currently working on publishing it.

My heart feels very sad (Russian love song)
Tikhon Nikolaevich Khrennikov (1913-2007), arr. Jo Haazen

Tikhon Nikolaevich Khrennikov was a Russian and Soviet composer and pianist. He was the leader of the Union of Soviet Composers and became known for his political activities. This tune is a typical Russian love folk song. Just like the previous song, Jo Haazen created the carillon arrangement but never wrote it down. Philippe wrote it down after one of Jo’s concert performances in Belgium.

The nightingale
Aleksander Alyabyev (1787-1851), arr. Jo Haazen

Aleksander Alyabyev was a Russian composer known as one of the fathers of the Russian art song. He wrote 7 opera’s, 20 musical comedies, a symphony, more than 200 songs and many other pieces. Alyabyev’s most famous work is “The nightingale”: a song based on a poem by Anton Delvig. It was composed while Alyabyev was in prison, in 1825. The song became more widely popular after having been introduced into Rosina’s singing lesson scene in Gioacchino Rossini’s “The barber of Seville”.

Vocalise
Sergej Rachmaninov (1873-1943), arr. Jo Haazen

Rachmaninov’s Vocalise (op. 34 nr. 14) is an accompanied song out of his ‘14 songs, opus 34’. The song got published in 1912 and has been written for a soprano or a tenor. Usually, the vocalise is performed entirely with an “ah”-sound and has been dedicated to the soprano Antonia Nezhdanova. The original score mentions that it should be performed by a soprano rather than by a tenor. The song has actually never been performed by a tenor at all, because it sounds rather weird with the piano accompaniment (a tenor sings one octave lower than a soprano).

Menuet, aria and gigue
from “The Gruytter’s” Carillon Book, Antwerp, Belgium 1746

Somewhere around 1630, the blind carillonneur and flute player Jacob Van Eyck (The Netherlands) made some interesting discoveries about the complex ways of tuning a bell. Thanks to him, the building and tuning of carillons has improved a lot ever since. Shortly after his scientific conclusions, “pure” carillon sounds became part of the daily life in what is nowadays known as
Flanders (northern part of Belgium) and The Netherlands. The Carillon Book of Joannes De Gruytters (1746) – city carillonneur of Antwerp (Belgium) at that time - became one of the most important sources of Flemish historical carillon music. De Gruytters made carillon arrangements of tunes that were very popular during his lifetime.

*Siciliana*
*Joost Boutmy (1697-1779), arr. Jo Haazen*

Joost Boutmy was a Belgian organist, harpsichord player and composer of Baroque music. He became known as one of the organists at the Brussels Cathedral.

*Love said goodbye*
*Nino Rota (1911-1979), arr. Richard De Waardt*

Nino Rota was an Italian composer and became especially known as the composer of the soundtracks of the famous Godfather-trilogy and other films directed by Federico Fellini. He lived for a few years in Philadelphia, where he studied composition and orchestration at the Curtis Institute. This tune is taken from the soundtrack of one of the Godfather movies.

*Ne me quitte pas (don’t leave me)*
*Jacques Brel (1929-1978), arr. Philippe Beullens*

Jacques Brel was a Belgian singer songwriter who became internationally popular during the years ’60 of the previous century. Originally being from Brussels, he considered himself as a French speaking Flemish citizen. Most of the time, his songs were performed in French although he translated a few of them into Flemish. This song: “ne me quitte pas” (don’t leave me), became one of his most popular songs ever. It was the very first carillon arrangement Philippe ever wrote in his life. Since the arrangement has been published, it has been performed numerous times all over the world.

*American Patrol*
*Frank W. Meacham (1850-1896), arr. Philippe Beullens*

Frank Meacham was born in Buffalo, New York. His most famous work “American Patrol”, became a very popular march. Written originally for piano, it was then arranged for Brass Band and published in 1891. Later on, it became very popular after being arranged for the Glenn Miller Swing Band. Philippe based himself on the original Glenn Miller-arrangement when he decided to transcribe it for carillon. This carillon arrangement has been performed for the first time at Philippe’s final carillon exam in Mechelen (Belgium), in June 2012.

*She’s always a woman to me*
*Billy Joel (b. 1949), arr. Philippe Beullens*

She’s always a woman, is a song from Billy Joel’s 1977 album “The Stranger”. It is a love song about a woman, with whom he falls in love for her quirks as well as her flaws. A Muzak-version of this song was actually playing at the World Trade Center Plaza moments before it was destroyed during the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

*Heal the world*
*Michael Jackson (1958-2009), arr. Philippe Beullens*
Heal the world, is a song written by Michael Jackson and appeared on his album “dangerous”. During a chat-session in 2001, Michael Jackson said that this is the song he’s very proud of. After publishing this song, he founded the organisation “Heal the world foundation”: a foundation which aims to improve the life of poor children from poor countries and teach them how to be able to improve the world around them.

*Wem Gott will rechte Gunst erweisen*
* Austrian folk tune, arr. Jo Haazen*

This very cheerful Austrian folk tune, has been transcribed for carillon by Jo Haazen. Very little is known about this tune, but the story behind the carillon arrangement is that Jo heard it once and thought it was so cute to end one of his carillon recitals with this song.

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*About the Performer*

**Philippe Beullens** was born in Belgium, in 1975. At the Lemmens-Institute (Leuven, Belgium), he studied organ with prof. Peter Pieters (the successor of Flor Peeters), Chris Dubois and Luc Ponet; carillon with prof. Carl Van Eyndhoven and choir conducting with prof. Kurt Bikkembergs. In 2001, he obtained a Master's Degree in Music. Later on, in 2008, he continued his carillon study at the world famous Royal Belgian Carillon School in Mechelen, where he obtained his final diploma with Great Distinction under the guidance of Jo Haazen and Eddy Mariën.

From 1997 until 2001 he was the Assistant-Organist of St Rombout’s Cathedral (Mechelen, Belgium). Afterwards, he was appointed Organist and Choirmaster at St Martin’s Church of Overijse (Brussels, Belgium). In the same place, he also works as a music teacher at St Martin’s College (a secondary school). In the cities of Mechelen and Leuven (Belgium), he regularly performs as an associate City Carillonneur and at the Catholic University of Leuven he is one of the associate University carillonneurs.

In 2014, he became 5th finalist at the International Carillon Contest “Queen Fabiola” in Mechelen (Belgium). Both as an organist and carillonneur, Philippe has been performing numerous times in Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Poland, Australia, Japan and the USA.

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The Sunday Afternoon Concert Series continues with programs at 3PM on August 23, September 13, October 11, November 15, and December 6. A combined organ & carillon Halloween program will be held on Friday, October 30th at 7:30PM. 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](http://www.arts.ufl.edu/carillon) “Like” us on Facebook (search University of Florida Carillon Studio)
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.