38th Annual Summer Carillon Series at Middlebury

August 18, 2023
3:00 PM
Middlebury Chapel and surrounding lawns

George Matthew Jr.
Middlebury Carillonneur

Carillon Recital for Summer Language School Commencement

The selections are played in order of the founding of the various language schools, from German to ESL (English as a second language). The order of the selections will be announced by tolling their respective numbers on the Bourdon (largest bell). This is known as “ringing the tellers.”

Language Area

1. German       Bereite dich, Zion     J. S. Bach
2. French       Rigaudon “Dardanus”   J. P. Rameau
3. Spanish
   a. Milonga Tangueda                    Astor Piazzolla
   b. Te Quiero Tango                    Astor Piazzolla
4. Italian      Sonatas 17 & 16     Domenico Cimarosa
5. Ukrainian    Three Ukrainian Songs
   a. Ukrainian National Anthem
   b. Prayer for Ukraine
   c. A Moonlit Night
6. Chinese
   a. Drape Down                        Xia Hua
   b. Two Chinese folk songs            Adrian Tien
7. Japanese Folk songs arranged by Jo Haazen
   Olenderas, Komoriota, Sakura, Akatombo, Kojo No Tsuki

8. Arabic
   a. Itr al-Ghaga
   b. Fuq al Nakhel

9. Portuguese Medley of traditional Portuguese folk songs

10. Hebrew Medley of Israeli folk songs

11. Korean Two folk songs
    a. The Window to the South
    b. Spring Approaches Across the River

12. Native American
    a. Medley of Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, and Maliseet songs
    b. Native American flute songs by R. Carlos Nakai

13. Learning and Teaching English
    a. Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor
    b. This Land is Your Land
    c. California, Here I Come
    d. Moonlight in Vermont
Biography

George Matthew Jr. has been carillonneur of Norwich University and Middlebury since 1986. A church organist since the age of 13, he is currently organist at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church of Middlebury, Vermont. For eleven years he was accompanist for the Middlebury Community Chorus. In 2005 he was named Artist of the Year by the Vermont Chapter American Guild of Organists.

Mr. Matthew has made 40 carillon concert tours of the US and 13 of Europe. In all, he has played over 200 carillons. He has composed and arranged about 100 pieces for carillon, including a number of ragtime piano works. He is a graduate of Columbia, Bridgeport, and Wesleyan Universities. He is married to Irish wire harpist Sherri Matthew.

About the Carillon

In the late Middle Ages, life was regulated by one large town bell tolling the hour. Over time, several small bells were programmed to play a melody alerting the people that the hour was about to strike. Many towns became competitive with increasingly beautiful melodies announcing the hour, and they were frequently changed—a laborious process of setting pins in a large rotating drum. In 1510, simultaneously in Oudenarde, Netherlands and Lubeck, Germany, a keyboard was added to the rank of little bells—voilà, a carillon! Now the town could have an unlimited number of melodies.

A carillon comprises at least 23 tuned bells arranged in a chromatic scale; less than 23 bells is a chime. A “full carillon” denotes at least 47 bells/four octaves. A “grand carillon” denotes four and a half octaves/53 bells or more. Middlebury’s carillon is 48 bells, a harmonious mix of American and French bells installed in 1985. Today there are about 750 carillons in the world; 178 of those are in the US.

Visit go.middlebury.edu/carillon for more information.