Is the Tower ever open to the Public?

Members at the Donor level and above can view the Founder’s Room on one of four tours conducted each year.

1. Founder’s Room
2. Chao Research Center (Archives)
3. Maintenance Workshop
4. Anton Brees Carillon Library
5. Carillonneur’s Studio
6. Keyboard Room
7. Carillon (60 bells)

Inside the Singing Tower

TOWER
Architect: Milton B. Medary (Philadelphia)
Purpose: To house the carillon; serve as a centerpiece for the Gardens; the private use of the Bok family
Built: 1927-1929
Height: 205 feet (62.5 meters)
Weight: 5,500 tons (5,000 metric tons)
Structure: Steel frame with brick walls; outer facing of pink and gray Georgia marble and Florida coquina, a limestone of shell and coral fragments
Foundation: 118 reinforced concrete piles, 13-24 feet (4-7 meters) underground with a concrete cap of 2.5 feet (0.8 meter)
Sculpture: Lee Lawrie (New York City); herons at the top, eagles at the base of the bellchamber; all sculptures were carved on-site
Colorful Grilles near the top: Ceramic tiles designed by J.H. Dulles Allen (Philadelphia)
Brass Door and Wrought-iron Gates with Birds: Samuel Yellin (Philadelphia); depicts the Biblical story of Creation
Inscription under the Sundial: This Singing Tower with its adjacent Sanctuary was dedicated and presented to the American people by Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States, February 1, 1929.

INSIDE THE SINGING TOWER

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CLOCK MUSIC
Announcing the hour strike:
Lake Wales Nocturne (excerpt) Johan Franco
9:00 Prelude Johann Sebastian Bach
9:30 Sarabande (for carillon) Benoit Franssen
10:00 Somber Pavane (for carillon) Ronald Barnes
10:30 Andante Joseph H. Fiocco
11:00 Spring Morning (for carillon) Geert D’hollander
11:30 Andante (for carillon) Ronald Barnes
12:00 Prelude VI (for carillon) Matthias vanden Gheyn
12:30 Chaconne * Auguste Durand
1:00 CONCERT
2:00 Dreaming (for carillon) Geert D’hollander
2:30 Andante (for carillon) Ioannes de Graijtters
3:00 CONCERT
4:00 Waltz Edvard Grieg
4:30 Cortege (for carillon) John Courter
5:00 La Volta William Byrd
5:30 Solveig’s Song * Edvard Grieg

Adaptations for carillon of melodies or of music written for other instruments have been made by the recitalist, except for those arrangers identified by the following:

* Anton Brees
Thursday at 1:00 p.m.
Live performance by Wade FitzGerald

Two Baroque Preludes
No. 1 in G major Matthias vanden Gheyn
No. 5 in D minor (1721-1785)

Music by John Courter (1941-2010)
Prelude and Pastoral
Rondo in Lydian Mode
Variations on “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”
Theme
Var. I
Var. II Wälze tempio
Var. III Andante religioso
Var. IV Prelude No. 1 by M. van den Gheyn

In Memory of Roy Hamlin Johnson (1929-2020)
Chartres – Summer Fanfares

Thursday at 3:00 p.m.
Live performance by Wade FitzGerald

Joyful Music
Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring J. S. Bach (1685-1750) arr. Albert Gerken
Hymn of Thanksgiving Chorale and Fantasia J. Franco (1908-1988)

Meditations
Bagatelle Op. 6 No. 6 Béla Bartók (1881-1945)
Gnossienne No. 3 Erik Satie (1866-1925) arr. Fr. Newell

Improvisations on Pop Songs

Friday at 1:00 p.m.
Live performance by Wade FitzGerald

A Prelude by Matthias Vanden Gheyn (1721-1785)
No. 5 in D minor

Gaudi’s Chimneys: Whimsical Dances for Carillon
John Courter (1941-2010)
The Undulating Chimneys of Casa Batlló
The Mushroom Chimneys of Park Güell
The Geometric Chimneys of Güell Palace

Meditations
Gymnopedie No. 1 Erik Satie (1866-1925)
Bagatelle Op. 6 No. 6 Béla Bartók (1881-1945)
Pastel in Bronze Albert Gerken

Two Pieces by Roy Hamlin Johnson (1929-2020)
Chartres – Summer Fanfares

Friday at 3:00 p.m.
Historic Recording

Sonnerie from Serenade II for carillon R. Barnes commissioned in 1979 by Bok Tower Gardens
dedicated to M. Myhre & Nellie Lee Bok

O, Thou Beautiful Swallow Émilien Allard
dedicated to Nellie Lee Bok, 1970

American Music arr. M. Myhre
Simple Gifts Shaker Hymn
To a Wild Rose Edward MacDowell
Listen to the Mockingbird Richard Milburn
Higher Ground Charles H. Gabriel
Ragtime Bells John Courter

Saturday at 1:00 p.m.
Live performance by Wade FitzGerald

A Prelude by Matthias van den Gheyn (1721-1785)
No. 5 in D minor

Music by Ronald Barnes (1927-1997)
Sicilienne – Milonga – Processional – A Whimsy
Spanish Music by Francisco Tárrega (1852-1909)
Tango in G minor arr. Carlo van Ulft
Gran Vals arr. Jasper Stam

In Memory of Roy Hamlin Johnson (1929-2020)
Chartres

Saturday at 3:00 p.m.
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A Prelude by Matthias Vanden Gheyn (1721-1785)
No. 5 in D minor

Gaudi’s Chimneys: Whimsical Dances for Carillon
John Courter (1941-2010)
The Undulating Chimneys of Casa Batlló
The Mushroom Chimneys of Park Güell
The Geometric Chimneys of Güell Palace

Meditations
Gymnopedie No. 1 Erik Satie (1866-1925)
Bagatelle Op. 6 No. 6 Béla Bartók (1881-1945)

Two Pieces by Roy Hamlin Johnson (1929-2020)
Chartres – Summer Fanfares

Sunday at 1:00 p.m.
Live performance by Wade FitzGerald

A Piece by Ronald Barnes (1927-1997)
Sonnerie

Hymns and Spirituals
All Creatures of Our God and King arr. B. Buchanan
How Great Thou Art arr. Milford Myhre
Simple Gifts – Amazing Grace

Two Nocturnes by Johan Franco (1908-1988)
Blue Ridge Nocturne – Lake Wales Nocturne

A Closing Hymn
Hymn of Thanksgiving Chorale and Fantasia J. Franco

Sunday at 3:00 p.m.
Live performance by Wade FitzGerald

Joyful Music
Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring J. S. Bach (1685-1750) arr. Albert Gerken
Musical Clock Pieces—F. Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)
Tempo di minuetto Allegretto

Transcriptions of Spanish Guitar Pieces
Leyenda I. Albéniz (1860-1909) arr. Albert Gerken
Lagrima Fr. Tárrega (1852-1909) arr. Jasper Stam

Folk Songs
Shenandoah arr. Milford Myhre
Simple Gifts
Take Me Home, Country Roads John Denver arr. Carlo van Ulft