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.

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. Dulle 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.

Bellfounder: John Taylor Bellfounders, Ltd. (Loughborough, England)

Size: 60 bronze bells

Bell weight: Smallest bell at 16 lbs. Largest bell at 11+ tons (10+ metric tons) Total of 63+ tons (57+ metric tons)
Monday at 1:00p.m.
Historic Recording by Milford Myhre

Etudes in a New Age (1988) John Courter
Minims – Visions – Pulsations

Music from Broadway
My Fair Lady Medley Frederick Loewe
Street Where You Live Love
ly I’ve Grown Accustomed

A Carillon Duet Performers: M. Myhre & W. De Turk
A Concerto for Two to Play (1981) Ronald Barnes
Allegro Moderato – Andante – Allegro

Monday at 3:00p.m.
Historic Recording by William De Turk

Carillon G. Fr. Händel

Three Folksongs
Scarborough Fair English
Cecilia Flemish
Auprès de ma blonde French

Etude for carillon Gary White
Amazing Grace American
How Great Thou Art Swedish

If David Gates arr. Gary White
Edelweiss Richard Rodgers

Tuesday at 1:00p.m.
Historic Recording by Milford Myhre

American Carillon Music
Prelude (1971) Donna Gleason
Etude (1965) Gary White
Reflections (1965) Gary White

Three Spirituals arr. Earl Chamberlain
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen
Little David Play on your Harp

American Carillon Music
Prayer for Peace (1962) Jean Miller
Promenade (1964) Ronald Barnes

Hymns arr. M. Myhre
Built on the Rock paraphrase tune L. Linderman
They’ll Know We Are Christians Peter Scholtes

Tuesday at 3:00p.m.
Historic Recording by William De Turk

Or Let the Merry Bells Ring Round! George Fr. Händel
Introduction & Sicilienne for carillon Ronald Barnes

Hymns
Simple Gifts Shaker hymn
Wondrous Love Appalachian hymn
Amazing Grace American hymn

Music of Mozart
Three German Dances
Rondo a la Turca

Wednesday at 1:00p.m.
Historic Recording by William De Turk

Prelude for Harpsichord George Fr. Händel

Romantic Selection
Welcome, Sweet Springtime A. Rubinstein
Country Gardens Percy Grainger
Sonnerie from Serenade II for carillon R. Barnes
commissioned in 1979 by Bok Tower Gardens
dedicated to M. Myhre & Nellie Lee Bok

Irish Music
When Irish Eyes are Smiling
Be Thou my Vision O Lord of my Heart
Paddy Whack jig
O Danny Boy

Wednesday at 3:00p.m.
Historic Recording by Milford Myhre

Music from France
Carillon Prelude No. 1 (1935) Robert Lannoy
Menuet from Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme J. B. Lully
Pavane from Style Renaissance Paul Wachs
arr. Jacques Lanoy

Instrumental Transcriptions
Violin Fugue Johann S. Bach
arr. Ronald Barnes
Allegretto for piano Franz-Joseph Haydn
arr. M. Myhre

Hymns arr. M. Myhre
Ode to Joy Ludwig van Beethoven
Christ is Made the Sure Henry Smart

A Tradition of Excellence

Anton Brees (Antwerp, Belgium) served as our first carillonneur from 1928 until his death in 1967. Named in his honor, the Anton Brees Carillon Library is the largest and most comprehensive carillon library in the world.

Milford Myhre retired in June 2004 after 36 years as our carillonneur. He obtained his musical training at the University of Nebraska, the University of Michigan and the Royal Carillon School “Jef Denyn” in Belgium. President for both the GCNA and the World Carillon Federation, he has performed on three continents during his distinguished career of more than 50 years.

William (Bill) De Turk was director of carillon services from July 1, 2004 to October 31, 2011, after serving as assistant carillonneur and librarian since 1993. A native of the Philadelphia area, he received a bachelor of music degree cum honore from Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio, and master of music degree in organ performance from the University of Michigan.

Geert D’hollander was named Bok Tower Gardens’ fourth full-time carillonneur in October 2012 and is one of the finest in the world. He has studied piano, chamber music, choral and orchestral direction, fugue, and composition at the Royal Conservatory in Antwerp, Belgium, and carillon at the Royal Carillon School in Mechelen, Belgium. He has taken first prize in more than 30 international competitions for carillon or composition.

A Tradition of Excellence