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. 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.

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)

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

Landscape for carillon (1953) John Pozdro

Hymns arr. M. Myhre
For the Beauty of the Earth Carl Katcher
Praise to the Lord Johann G. Walter
Kongai: The Soul of the Great Bell John Diercks
To a Wild Rose Edward Meddowell

Music from England arr. Ronald Barnes
As I was Going to Banbury
Blow Away the Morning Dew
There Were Three Ravens
Kemp’s Jig
Rhythm Dance for carillon Staf Nees

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

Prelude from Cello Suite No. 6 Johann S. Bach
Hymns
My Faith Looks Up to Thee Olivet arr. P. Price
Go to Dark Gethsemane Petra arr. A. Gerken
O Sacred Head Telenann arr. A. Gerken
Folk Music from British Isles
The Jolly Miller of the Dee England arr. R. Barnes
Greensleeves England arr. M. Myhre
Goodbye, My Lover Goodbye Ireland arr. J. Lannoy
Loch Lomond Scotland arr. M. Myhre

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

Prelude from Cello Suite No. 6 Johann S. Bach
Hymns
My Faith Looks Up to Thee Olivet arr. P. Price
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Goodbye, My Lover Goodbye Ireland arr. J. Lannoy
Loch Lomond Scotland arr. M. Myhre

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

Hymn-Preludes Roy Hamlin Johnson
With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh Forty Days and Forty Nights
Tunes for Clay’s Musical Clock G. Fr. Händel
Minuet – Aria – AirPastel in Bronze for carillon, 1974 Albert Gerken
Music from Folklore Vive la Canadienne! French Canada
Little Rock on the High Mountain French Canada
The Jolly Miller of the Dee England arr. R. Barnes
The Vicar of Bray England
Carnival of the Animals Camille Saint-Saëns
Tortoises

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

Allegro Ioannes de Gruijitters
A Popular Selection
If David Gates
arr. Gary White
Dutch Carillon Composition Old Rondeau for carillon (1974) Wim Franken
Caribbean Folk Song There Once was a Little Boat Puerto Rico
arr. Raymond Keldermans
American Carillon Compositions Melodeon for carillon (1982) Timothy Hurd
Flamenco for carillon (1980) Ronald Barnes

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

Prelude for Carillon Ronald Barnes
Music of Johann Sebastian Bach
Prelude in C Major Siciliano
Bist du bei mir Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring
Rondino for carillon J.H. Kersbergen
Lake Music for carillon Terry Vaughan
A Popular Selection
Let Me Call You Sweetheart Leo Friedman
Over There George Cohan
Till We Meet Again Richard Whiting
Smiles Lee Roberts

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.