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)

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 11.5 tons (10.5 metric tons) Total of 63 tons (57 metric tons)

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

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 Emilien 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

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

Prelude & Fugue on Old 104th 1988 R. Barnes

Folk songs from Abroad arr. M. Myhre
In My Father’s Garden France Tinuiatine
Loch Lomond Scotland
Muss I Denn Germany Basurria

Music from Spain
El Vito dance Andalucia
Amelia’s Story Catalonia

French Opera Music
Habanera from Carmen Georges Bizet
arr. M. Myhre

Tuesday at 1:00 p.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 Vaughn

A Popular Selection
Let Me Call You Sweetheart Leo Friedman
Over There George Cohan
Till We Meet Again Richard Whiting
Smiles Lee Roberts

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

Sonnerie from Serenade II, 1980 Ronald Barnes

Music from Appalachia
Go ’Way from my Window
All The Pretty Little Horses
Poor Wayfaring Stranger

Early Flemish Carillon Music
Allegro 1746 Ioannes de Gruijters

Music from Spain
Amelia’s Story Catalonia

French Opera Music
Habanera from Carmen Georges Bizet
arr. M. Myhre

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

Three Pieces for Small Carillon 1986 A. de Klerk
Festive Overture
Under a Green Linden
The Poplar
La Barriera dance Fabritio Caroso
arr. Arie Abbenes

Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes English
arr. M. Myhre

Popular Songs arr. Sally S. Warner
I’ll Be Seeing You Sammy Fain
Always Irving Berlin
Organ Concerto No. 1 Johann Seb. Bach
Allegro – Grave – Presto arr. Albert Gerken

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

Prelude and Sarabande by Ronald Barnes

Music from Folklore arr. M. Myhre
The Ash Grove Wales
Simple Gifts American-Shaker
Allegro for carillon Samuel Barber
Yanvalloix for guitar Frantz Casseus
arr. Ronald Barnes

Selection for Piano
Minauet in G L. van Beethoven arr. M. Myhre
Rumanian Hornpipe Dance B. Barok arr. R Grogan
Summer Fanfares 1956 Roy Hamlin Johnson

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.