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 carillons 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

Allegro
Joannes de Gruijtters

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

Monday 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
Rondo for carillon
Lake Music for carillon
J.H. Kersbergen
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

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

Prelude from Cello Suite No. 6
Johann S. Bach
arr. Albert Gerken

Hymns
My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Olivet
arr. P. Price
Go to Dark Gethsemane
Petra
arr. A. Gerken
O Sacred Head
Telemann
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 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 – Air
Pastel 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

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

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

A Carillon Duet
Performers: M. Myhre & W. De Turk
ALLEGRO MODO – ANDANTE – ALLEGRO

Wednesday 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

Etude for carillon
Gian-Carlo Menotti
If
David Gates, arr. Gary White
Edelweiss
Richard Rodgers

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.