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.

CLOCK MUSIC
Announcing the hour strike:
Lake Wales Nocturne (excerpt) Johan Franco
9:00 Prelude Johann Sebastian Bach
9:30 Sarabande (for carillon) Benoît 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 Durant
1:00 CONCERT
2:00 Dreaming (for carillon) Geert D’Hollander
2:30 Andante (for carillon) Ioannes de Graafters
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 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

INSIDE THE SINGING TOWER

DAILY CARILLON MUSIC
DECEMBER 07-09, 2020
Carillon Concerts at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

BOK TOWER GARDENS
863-676-1408 | LAKE WALES, FL
BOKTOWERGARDENS.ORG
Monday at 1:00 p.m.  
Historic Recording by William De Turk

European Carols
- Ding Dong Merrily on High  
  Welsh
- Here We Come a Caroling  
  English
- Deck the Hall in 7/8 time  
  English
- O Christmas Tree  
  German
- Pat-a-Pan  
  French
- Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella  
  French
- While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks  
  Irish

19th Century Carols
- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
  F. Mendelssohn
- O Little Town of Bethlehem  
  L. Redner

Traditional Christmas Hymns
- O Come, All Ye Faithful  
  Adeste Fideles
- On This Day Earth Shall Ring  
  Piae Cantiones

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

European Carols
- Ding Dong Merrily on High  
  Welsh
- Here We Come a Caroling  
  English
- Deck the Hall in 7/8 time  
  English
- O Christmas Tree  
  German
- Pat-a-Pan  
  French
- Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella  
  French
- While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks  
  Irish

19th Century Carols
- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
  F. Mendelssohn
- O Little Town of Bethlehem  
  L. Redner

Traditional Christmas Hymns
- O Come, All Ye Faithful  
  Adeste Fideles
- On This Day Earth Shall Ring  
  Piae Cantiones

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

Seasonal Music
- O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
  Roy H. Johnson
- Divinum Mysterium 13th Century plainsong  
- In Dulci Jubilo  
  Roy Hamlin Johnson
- Barcarolle for carillon Serenade I  
  Ronald Barnes

Seasonal Music
- The Holly and the Ivy  
  English
- The Christmas Song  
  Mel Tormé
- Here We Come a Caroling  
  English
- Carol of the Bells with elaboration  
  Leonovich

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

English Carols
- Ding Dong Merrily on High  
- The First Noel  
- What Child is This  
- Good King Wenceslas

American Carols
- O Little Town of Bethlehem  
  Louis Redner
- Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head  
  Appalachian
- I Wonder as I Wander  
  Appalachian

French Carols
- When the Shepherd Goes to the Field  
- Angels We Have Heard on High  
- He is Born, the Divine Christ Child

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

Intrada Serenade I for carillon  
Ronald Barnes

Three Carols
- I Wonder as I Wander  
  Appalachian
- Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head  
  Appalachian
- In Dulci Jubilo  
  Roy Hamlin Johnson

Introduction & Sicilienne for carillon  
Ronald Barnes

Three English Carols
- The First Noel  
- Good King Wenceslas
- We Wish You a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
- Auld Lang Syne  
  Scottish

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

European Carols
- Ding Dong Merrily on High  
  Welsh
- Here We Come a Caroling  
  English
- Deck the Hall in 7/8 time  
  English
- O Christmas Tree  
  German
- Pat-a-Pan  
  French
- Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella  
  French
- While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks  
  Irish

19th Century Carols
- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
  F. Mendelssohn
- O Little Town of Bethlehem  
  L. Redner

Traditional Christmas Hymns
- O Come, All Ye Faithful  
  Adeste Fideles
- On This Day Earth Shall Ring  
  Piae Cantiones

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.