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. Carillonner’s Studio
6. Keyboard Room
7. Carillon (60 bells)

Inside the Singing Tower

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)

Sculture: 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)

Clock Music

Announcing the hour strike:

Lake Wales Nocturne (excerpt)  Johan Franco
9:00  Prelude  Johann Sebastian Bach
9:30  Sarabande (for carillon)  Benoît Fransens
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 Durand
1:00  CONCERT
2:00  Dreaming (for carillon)  Geert D’hollander
2:30  Andante (for carillon)  Ioannes de Grauijtters
3:00  CONCERT
4:00  Waltz  Edvard Grieg
4:30  Cortège (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
Monday at 1:00p.m.
Historic Recording by Milford Myhre

Three Pieces for Small Carillon 1986 Albert de Klerk
Festive Overture
Under a Green Linden
The Poplar
La Barrierra dance Fabritio Caroso
Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes English
arr. M. Myhre

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

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

Belgian Carillon Music
Intermezzo Molto Capriccioso Eugen Uten
Lamento from Sonatine, 1959 Gaston Ferrerans
Australianiana a medley of folk music, arr. M. Myhre
Andy’s Gone with Cattle
The Wild Colonial Boy
Walzing Matilda
Amazing Grace Virginia Harmony 1831
Sonata K. 87 For harpsichord Domenico Scarlatti
If popular ballad
If popular ballad
Study in D Minor 1934 Staf Nees

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

Organ Concerto BWV 592 Johann S. Bach
Allegro – Grave – Presto arr. Albert Gerken
Rumanian Hornpipe Dance Bela Bartok
arr. Robert Grogan
Signals Toccata for carillon, 1982 Ronald Barnes
Caprichio Catalan Isaac Albéniz
arr. Jules Verniers

A Popular Selection arr. Sally S. Warner
Sleepy Lagoon Lawrence & Coates

Wednesday 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 Kotscher
Praise to the Lord Johann G. Walter
Kongai: The Soul of the Great Bell John Diercks
arr. M. Myhre
To a Wild Rose Edward Medowell
arr. M. Myhre

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

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

Allegro from Organ Concerto No. 2 G. Fr. Händel
arr. Ronald Barnes
Sacred Selections
Abide With Me William H. Monk
arr. M. Myhre
Sheep May Safely Graze Johann S. Bach
arr. Percival Price
Stillness Russian Lullaby
arr. Jacques Lannoy

American Carillon Compositions
From Serenade for carillon 1978 Ronald Barnes
Sicilienne – Milonga

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.