Is the Tower ever open to the Public?

Members at the Brass Door level and above receive an exclusive tour of 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+ 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 arrangements identified by the following:

* Anton Brees

Clock Music
Announcing the hour strike:
Lake Wales Nocturne (excerpt)  Johan Franco
9:00  Prelude  Johann Sebastian Bach
9:30  Sarabande (for carillon)  Benoit 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
1:30  Dreaming (for carillon)  Geert D’hollander
2:00  Andante (for carillon)  Ioannes de Graijtters
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

Carillon Concerts at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

Inside the Singing Tower
1. Founder’s Room
2. Chao Research Center (Archives)
3. Maintenance Workshop
4. Anton Brees Carillon Library
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6. Keyboard Room
7. Carillon (60 bells)

Daily Carillon Music
August 17 - 20, 2023

Bok Tower Gardens
863-676-1408 | Lake Wales, FL
BOKTOWERGARDENS.ORG
Thursday 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

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

Music of Johann Sebastian Bach
Prelude in C Major
Siciliano
Bist du bei mir
Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring
Rondino for carillon
Lake Music for carillon

A Popular Selection
Let Me Call You Sweetheart
Over There
Till We Meet Again
Smiles

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

Sonnerie from Serenade II, 1980
R. Barnes

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

Early Flemish Carillon Music
Allegro 1746

Music from Spain
Amelia’s Story
El Vito

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

Allegro
Ioannes de Gruijtters

A Popular Selection
If
Dutch Carillon Composition
Old Rondeau for carillon

Caribbean Folk Song
There Once was a Little Boat

American Carillon Compositions
Melodeon for carillon
Flamenco for carillon

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

Belgian Carillon Music
Intermezzo Molto Capriccioso
Lamento from Sonatine, 1959

Australianiana a medley of folk music, arr. M. Myhre
Andy’s Gone with Cattle

American Carillon Compositions
Melodeon for carillon

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

Organ Concerto BWV 592 Johann S. Bach
Allegro – Grave – Presto
Rumanian Hornpipe Dance

Signals Toccata for carillon, 1982
Caprichio Catalan

A Popular Selection arr. Sally S. Warner
Sleepy Lagoon

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

Organ Concerto BWV 592 Johann S. Bach
Allegro – Grave – Presto
Rumanian Hornpipe Dance

Signals Toccata for carillon, 1982
Caprichio Catalan

A Popular Selection arr. Sally S. Warner
Sleepy Lagoon