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.

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 carillon 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

CLOCK MUSIC

Announcing the hour strike:
Lake Wales Nocturne (excerpt)  Johan Franco

9:00  Prelude  Johann Sebastian Bach

9:30  Sarabande (for carillon)  Benoit 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 Durant

1:00  CONCERT

2:00  Dreaming (for carillon)  Geert D’hollander

2:30  Andante (for carillon)  Ioannes de Gruytters

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
Monday at 1:00p.m.
Live performance by Geert D’hollander

Contemporary North American Carillon Music
From “Three Short Pieces” 1964  Gary White b. 1937
Etude & Vigil

Improvisation on a hit from the 20’s

Romantic Selection from the Belgian Carillon School
Preludium Quasi Una Fantasia 1927  Van Hoof 1886-1959
Menuet and Trio 1933  Staf’Nees 1901-1965
Fairy-Tale 1953  Jef Rottiers 1904-1985

Improvisation on hits from the 30’s

Monday at 3:00p.m.
Live Performance by Geert D’hollander

Improvisation on a hit from the 40’s

Two Aria’s by Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750
Adagio from the “Italian Concerto”, BWV 971
Aria “on the G String” from the Suite, BWV 1068

From the Tower’s Archives
Sonatina  Daniel G. Steibelt
Allegro  1765-1823
Moderato con espressione

Improvisation on a hit from the 50’s

Tuesday at 1:00p.m.
Live Performance by Geert D’hollander

Music from the Classical Era
Sonatina III for Guitar, Op. 71  Mauro Giuliani
Andantino  1781-1829
Tempo di Marcia
Scherzo
Finale

Two Compositions by the Performer
“Blessing and Honor and Glory”
“Be Thou my Vision”

from “Hymn Preludes for the Kirk”

Improvisation

Tuesday at 3:00p.m.
Live Performance by Geert D’hollander

From the Tower’s Archives
The Death of Ase  Edvard Grieg 1843-1905
The Old Refrain  Fritz Kreisler 1875-1962

The Berghuis Manuscript Collection 1741-1801
Sonata in F Major  Ioannes Berghuis 1724-1801
Sonata in G Major  Johann A. Just
Allegro – Cembalo  1750-1791
Menuet – Allegro

Improvisation

Wednesday at 1:00p.m.
Live Performance by Geert D’hollander

Harpischord Transcriptions
Suite in D Minor  George Fr. Haendel 1685-1759
Allegro – Courante – Sarabande I & II –
Ciaccona

Salon Music
Oriental Waltz  Phil Polin
“Melodie D’Amour”

A Carillon Composition
Partita III, The Harmony of Zion 1989  J. Knox b. 1932

Improvisation

Wednesday at 3:00p.m.
Live Performance by Alan Bowman

Prelude  Ronald Barnes 1927-1997
Sonata No. 2 for violin and Basso Continuo  W. De Fesch
Largo  1687-1761
Allemanda

Image No. 10  Stefano Colletti b. 1973
“Moonlight in Bok Tower Gardens”

S.O.S. (ABBA)  arr. Alan Bowman

The Second Waltz  Dmitri Shostakovitch 1906-1975

arr. Frank Steijns

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. In 1997, Geert succeeded Ronald Barnes as University Carillonist and Professor of Carillon at the Department of Music at UC Berkeley. In 2008, he was awarded the “Berkeley Medal” for “Distinguished Service to the Carillon.”

Born in Dayton, Ohio, Alan Bowman played the piano and organ from an early age. He earned his bachelor’s degree in Systems Analysis with a minor in Piano Performance from Miami University and a Master of Music degree with a major in Organ Performance from Florida Atlantic University.

Alan lived and worked in Florida for more than 25 years as a director of music in Lutheran, Anglican and Roman Catholic churches.

In 2021 he was introduced to the carillon in Dayton by Larry Weinstein, who gave him his initial lessons and encouragement to study at the Royal Carillon School “Jef Denyn” in Mechelen, Belgium.

Under the guidance of his carillon teacher Koen Van Assche, Alan graduated in June of 2023 and performed a 16-concert tour in Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, and the U.S.