Is the Tower ever open to the Public?

Members at the Brass Door level and above can receive an exclusive tour of the Founder’s Room.

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)

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

American Carillon Music  
“The most beloved Jesus”  Sally Slade Warner  
5 variations on an old Flemish song  1932-2009

From “Three Carillon Preludes”  G. D’hollander  
“Rejoice Believers” in Baroque Style  b. 1965

Improvisation on Seasonal Music

The most Wonderful Day of the Year  Johnny Marks  
1909-1985

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Friday at 1:00 p.m.  
Live Performance by Claire Janezic

In the Air  
Mist Against the Cathedral  Claire Janezic  b. 2000  
‘O Toi Belle Hirondelle’  Trad. French Canadian

Walking in the Air  The Snowman  H. Blake  b. 1938

English Christmas Carols arranged by Ronald Barnes  
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen  English Traditional

Good King Wenceslas  English Traditional

Suite in D minor for harpsichord  George Fr. Handel  
Allemande – Courante  1685-1759

Sarabande I & II - Ciacona

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Friday at 3:00 p.m.  
Live Performance by Claire Janezic

From ‘A Carillon Book for the Liturgical Year’  
In Dulci Jubilo  
Rosa Mystica Lo Have a Rose  German Traditional

Babylon’s Streams  Thomas Campion 1567-1619

Chartres  French Traditional

Sonata 12  Isabella Leonarda 1620-1704

Adagio – Allegro, e presto – Vivace e lento

Passacaglia  Jos Lelincx 1920-2020

Traditional Christmas Carols  
Coventry Carol  English

Huron Carol  French-Canadian

Improvisation on Greensleeves  English

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

Christmas Songs by Johnny Marks (1909-1985)  
Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer

’T was the Night before Christmas

The most Wonderful Day of the Year

When Santa Claus gets your Letter

A Holly Jolly Christmas

Jingle, Jingle, Jingle

Improvisation on Seasonal Music

Oh, How Joyfully  Sicilian Hymn

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Saturday at 3:00 p.m.  
Live Performance by Geert D’hollander and the Florida Dance Theatre

Intro  
Carol of the Bells  M. D. Leontovich  
I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas  Bing Crosby

From “The Nutcracker”  Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikowsky  
1840-1893

1. Miniature Overture  carillon solo

2. March of the Toy Soldiers  Molly Ahler-Dolbashian

3. Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy  Kassi Abreu

4. Russian Dance  Stefan Dolbashian  
& Thomas “TJ” Howell

5. Arabian Dance  Jordan Raybon and TJ Howell

6. Chinese Dance  Jenn Mehlig & Lauren Theriault

7. Dance of the Reed Flutes  Molly Ahler-Dolbashian

I Wish You a Merry Christmas  English traditional

Thank you to Jermaine Thornton and Stefan Dolbashian of the Florida Dance Theatre for making this dream collaboration a reality. We are honored to host the incredible Florida Dance Theatre dancers for these very special performances.

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Sunday at 1:00 p.m.  
Live Performance by Geert D’Hollander

Appalachian Traditions  
Lullay, Thou Tiny Little Child

I wonder as I wander – Sing we the Virgin Mary

Welsh Traditions  
Deck the Halls – Come all Christians, singing

Behold! The best of mornings is here

Improvisation on Seasonal Music

Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer  J. Marks 1909-1985

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Sunday at 3:00 p.m.  
Live Performance by Geert D’hollander and the Florida Dance Theatre

Intro  
Carol of the Bells  M. D. Leontovich

I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas  Bing Crosby

From “The Nutcracker”  Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikowsky  
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