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

Or Let the Merry Bells Ring 'Round!
G. Fr. Händel
Introduction & Sicilienne for carillon
R. Barnes

Hymns
Simple Gifts
Shaker hymn
Wondrous Love
Appalachian hymn
Amazing Grace
American hymn

Music of Mozart
Three German Dances
Rondo a la Turca

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

Prelude for Harpsichord
George Fr. Händel

Romantic Selection
Welcome, Sweet Springtime
Anton Rubinstein
Country Gardens
Percy Grainger
Sonnerie from Serenade II for carillon
R. Barnes
dedicated in 1979 by Bok Tower Gardens
dedicated to M. Myhre & Nellie Lee Bok

Irish Music
When Irish Eyes are Smiling
Be Thou my Vision O Lord of my Heart
Paddy Whack jig
O Danny Boy

Wednesday at 1:00p.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

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

American Carillon Music
Prelude 1971
Donna Gleason
Etude 1965
Gary White
Reflections 1965
Gary White

Three Spirituals arr. Earl Chamberlain
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen
Little David Play on your Harp

American Carillon Music
Prayer for Peace 1962
Jean Miller
Promenade 1964
Ronald Barnes

Hymns arr. M. Myhre
Built on the Rock paraphrase
tune L. Linderman
They’ll Know We Are Christians
Peter Scholtes

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

Music from France
Carillon Prelude No. 1 1935
Robert Lannoy
Minuet from Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme
J. B. Lully
Pavane from Style Renaissance
Paul Wachs
arr. Jacques Lannoy

Instrumental Transcriptions
Violin Fugue
Johann S. Bach
arr. Ronald Barnes
Allegretto for piano
Franz-Joseph Haydn
arr. M. Myhre

Hymns arr. M. Myhre
Ode to Joy
Ludwig van Beethoven
Christ is Made the Sure
Henry Smart

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

Prelude & Fugue on Old 104th 1988
Ronald Barnes

Folksongs from Abroad arr. M. Myhre
In My Father’s Garden
France
Touraine
Loch Lomond
Scotland
Muss I Denn
Germany
Bavaria

Music from Spain
El Vito dance
Andalusia
arr. Sally S. Warner
Amelia’s Story
Catalonia
arr. N. Yepes

French Opera Music
Habanera from Carmen
Georges Bizet
arr. M. Myhre

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.