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)

Bok Tower Gardens

Bok Tower
Carillon

205 feet (62.5 meters)
5,500 tons (5,000 metric tons)
Steel frame with brick walls; outer facing of pink and gray Georgia marble and Florida coquina, a limestone of shell and coral fragments
118 reinforced concrete piles, 13-24 feet (4-7 meters) underground with a concrete cap of 2.5 feet (0.8 meter)
Lee Lawrie (New York City); herons at the top, eagles at the base of the bellchamber; all sculptures were carved on-site
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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  Andante *  
Ronald Barnes
1:00  CONCERT
2:00  Dreaming (for carillon)  
Geert D’hollander
2:30  Andante (for carillon)  
Joannes de Grauijters
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

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

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

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

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

Prelude & Fugue on Old 104th
1988
Ronald Barnes

Folksongs from Abroad arr. M. Myhre

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

Tuesday at 1:00p.m.
Live Performance by Jennifer Lory-Moran

A Fairytale on the name Fabiola
Kr. Van Ingelgem
1944-2024

Water Works
Auf dem Wasser zu singen
Fr. Schubert, arr. A. Abbenes

Shenandoah American folk song, arr. M. Myhre
Bridge Over Troubled Water
P. Simon, arr. R. Perfecto

A Baroque Aria
Che si può fare What can one do?
B. Strozzi 1619-1677
arr. J. Lory-Moran

Finale
From Suite No. 1
John Courter 1941-2010

Sonorities – Toccata Festevole

Tuesday at 3:00p.m.
Live Performance by Jennifer Lory-Moran

Traditional Folk Ballads
Scarborough Fair & The Water is Wide

Sweets
A Sweet, Soft Samba
Geert D’hollander b. 1965

Selections from Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
The Candy Man Can
L. Bricusse & A. Newley
Pure Imagination
arr. J. Lory-Moran

Morning and Night
Spring Morning Ludus Modalis 1
G. D’hollander
b. 1965

Evening Bells The Alfred Suite
K. Lefévere 1888-1972

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Jennifer Lory-Moran has been the advisor for the Cornell University Chimes program in Ithaca, New York since 2000. Cornell University has a 21-bell chime that is one of the largest and most frequently played chimes in the world. Jennifer has played the chime there for over 30 years. In addition to regularly playing concerts on the chime at Cornell, Jennifer has often performed on the carillons at the University of Rochester and Alfred University. While chimes and carillons are both sets of tuned bells hung stationary (not swinging), the techniques used to play them can be very different, depending on the playing stand that has been installed. Jennifer learned to play the chimes at Cornell University as an undergraduate. She started studying the carillon in 2012, but with the nearest carillon being 2 hours away from her home, the long drives made it difficult to practice very often. In response, she fully embraced being a “distance learner”, enrolled in the Royal Carillon School in Mechelen, Belgium, and started taking lessons over Skype using a carillon practice keyboard in her living room. She continues to take lessons in this manner, and she became a Carillonneur Member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America in June 2024.