

TOWER

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.

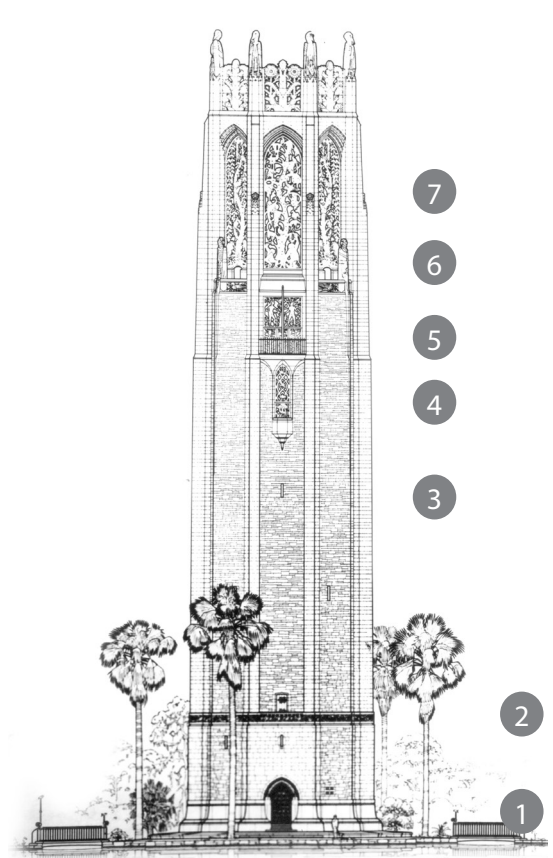
CARILLON

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)

INSIDE THE SINGING TOWER



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)

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.

CLOCK MUSIC

Announcing the hour strike:		
Lake Wales Nocturne (<i>excerpt</i>)		Johan Franco
9:00	Prelude	Johann Sebastian Bach
9:30	Sarabande (<i>for carillon</i>)	Benoit Franssen
10:00	Somber Pavane (<i>for carillon</i>)	Ronald Barnes
10:30	Andante	Joseph H. Fiocco
11:00	Spring Morning (<i>for carillon</i>)	Geert D’hollander
Sorrowing		
11:30	Andante (<i>for carillon</i>)	Ronald Barnes
12:00	Prelude VI (<i>for carillon</i>)	Matthias vanden Gheyn
12:30	Chaconne *	Auguste Durant
1:00	CONCERT	
2:00	Dreaming (<i>for carillon</i>)	Geert D’hollander
2:30	Andante (<i>for carillon</i>)	Ioannes de Gruijtters
3:00	CONCERT	
4:00	Waltz	Edvard Grieg
4:30	Cortege (<i>for carillon</i>)	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

DAILY CARILLON MUSIC

SEPTEMBER 13 - 15, 2025

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



Monday at 1:00p.m.

Live Performance by Michael Dixon

Salut d’Amour, op. 12 Edward Elgar
arr. Geert D’hollander

Two Original Carillon Works

Three Sketches for Carillon Ronald Barnes
Moderato
Freely
Quasi una fantasia

Sonatina Stefano Colletti

To Conclude

Moonlight Serenade Glenn Miller
arr. Jos. Lerinckx

Monday at 3:00p.m.

Live Performance by Michael Dixon

An Organ Transcription

Toccata in D Minor Johann Sebastian Bach
arr. Jeremy Chesman

Three Original Carillon Compositions

Fantasia Octatonica John Courter
from Suite No. 1
Three Sketches Ronald Barnes
Moderato – Freely – Quasi una fantasia
Moto Perpetuo Geert D’hollander

To Conclude

Misty Erroll Garner
arr. Jos. Lerinckx

Tuesday at 1:00p.m.

Historic Recording by Milford Myhre

Allegro Ioannes de Grujtters

A Popular Selection

If David Gates
arr. Gary White

Dutch Carillon Composition

Old Rondeau for carillon 1974 Wim Franken

Caribbean Folk Song

There Once was a Little Boat Puerto Rico
arr. Raymond Keldermans

American Carillon Compositions

Melodeon for carillon 1982 Timothy Hurd
Flamenco for carillon 1980 Ronald Barnes

Tuesday at 3:00p.m.

Historic Recording by William De Turk

Prelude for Carillon Ronald Barnes

Music of Johann Sebastian Bach

Prelude in C Major
Siciliano
Bist du bei mir
Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring
Rondino for carillon J.H. Kersbergen
Lake Music for carillon Terry Vaughan

A Popular Selection

Let Me Call You Sweetheart Leo Friedman
Over There George Cohan
Till We Meet Again Richard Whiting
Smiles Lee Roberts

Wednesday at 1:00p.m.

Historic Recording by Milford Myhre

Belgian Carillon Music

Intermezzo Molto Capriccioso Eugene Uten
Lamento from Sonatine, 1959 Gaston Feremans

Australianiana a medley of folk music, arr. M. Myhre

Andy’s Gone with Cattle
The Wild Colonial Boy
Waltzing Matilda
Amazing Grace Virginia Harmony 1831

arr. M. Myhre

Sonata K. 87 For harpsichord Domenico Scarlatti
arr. Ronald Barnes

If popular ballad David Gates
arr. Gary White

Study in D Minor 1934 Staf Nees

Wednesday at 3:00p.m.

Historic Recording by Milford Myhre

Organ Concerto BWV 592 Johann S. Bach
Allegro – Grave – Presto arr. Albert Gerken
Rumanian Hornpipe Dance Bela Bartok
arr. Robert Grogan

Signals Toccata for carillon, 1982 Ronald Barnes
Caprichio Catalan Isaac Albéniz
arr. Jules Verniers

A Popular Selection arr. Sally S. Warner
Sleepy Lagoon Lawrence & Coates

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.