

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.

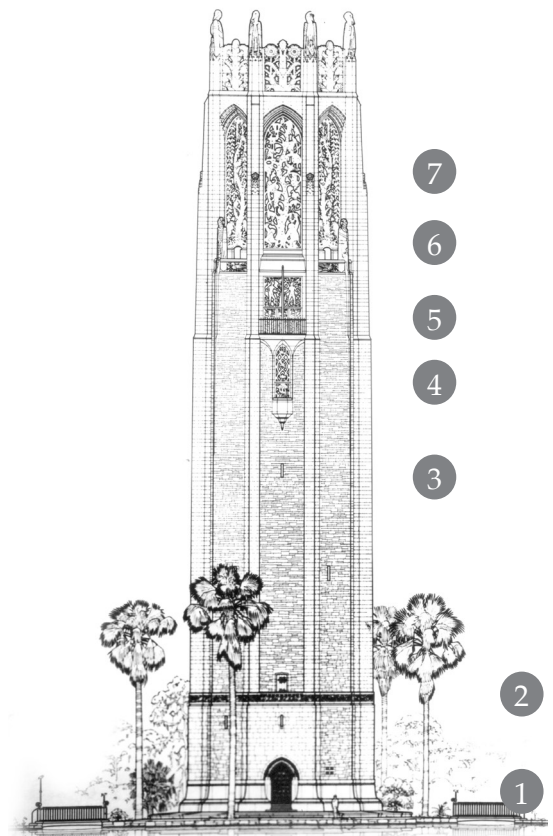
CARILLON

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

OCTOBER 6 - 8, 2025

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



Monday at 1:00p.m.

Historic Recording by Milford Myhre

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

Monday at 3:00p.m.

Historic Recording by William De Turk

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 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
commissioned 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

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 1:00p.m.

Historic Recording by Anton Brees

Selections from the Recital of December 2, 1928

Lead Kindly Light John B. Dykes
America the Beautiful Samuel A. Ward
Way Down Upon the Suwanee River Stephen C. Foster
My Old Kentucky Home Stephen C. Foster
Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes Old English song

Minuet in G Ludwig van Beethoven
Tambourin Jean-Philippe Rameau

Recent Carillon Composition

Paraphrase on “Come Down, O Love Divine”
Milford Myhre

Wednesday at 3:00p.m.

Historic Recording by Anton Brees

Selections from the Recital of December 2, 1928

Lead Kindly Light John B. Dykes
America the Beautiful Samuel A. Ward
Way Down Upon the Suwanee River Stephen C. Foster
My Old Kentucky Home Stephen C. Foster
Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes Old English song

Minuet in G Ludwig van Beethoven
Tambourin Jean-Philippe Rameau

Recent Carillon Composition

Paraphrase on “Come Down, O Love Divine”
Milford 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.