

THE DAVIS MEMORIAL CARILLON REDEDICATION



October 8, 1983
ALFRED UNIVERSITY
Alfred, New York

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A 35-bell carillon, installed in a temporary wooden tower, was dedicated in appreciation of the life and service of President and Mrs. Boothe Colwell Davis, on June 12, 1938. The carillon as it is rededicated in 1983, expanded to 47 bells hung in a permanent enclosed tower, completes the project envisioned at that time.

REDEDICATION PROGRAM

10:30 A.M.

Dr. Edward G. Coll, Jr.
President, Alfred University, Presiding

GREETINGS from the bells of Alfred
Hinkle Memorial Tower, SUNY Agricultural and Technical College
Fireman's Hall, the Village of Alfred
The Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church

SWINGING PEAL on the Davis Memorial Carillon

PLAYING OF "SONG OF THE BELL"
(words and music by L.C. Randolph)

*By the roaring, roaring banks of the old Kanakadea,
Oft I've lingered in the springtime long ago
While the waters rushed along, and the hills took up the song,
And a gentle voice was calling sweet and low.*

*O, I hear the echoes ringing from the belfry on the hill,
And the song inspires my heart to do and dare;
Calling me to love and duty, calling me to faith and prayer,
For the bell is ringing, ringing, ringing still.*

INVOCATION: The Reverend David S. Clarke '41

WELCOMING REMARKS: President Coll

HISTORICAL VIEW: Margaret Wingate Rase '42

THE REDEDICATION PROJECT: Dr. S. Gene Odle, Provost,
Alfred University

RIBBON CUTTING

TOWER VISITATION

CARILLON MUSIC: Joanne Droppers, University Carillonneur

Alma Mater L.C. Randolph

Kanakadea Tribute (composed for this occasion) . . . Joanne Droppers

Fantasia

Variations on "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Alfred Suite Kamiel Lefévere

Morning

On the Campus

Evening Bells

Yankee Doodle Boy George M. Cohan

(Arranged as a duet by Frank P. Law and played by Mr. Law and
Mrs. Droppers)

Frank Pécin Law will play a dedicatory recital at 4:30 this afternoon.

DEDICATORY RECITAL

4:30 P.M.

Frank Péchin Law
Carillonneur

Washington Memorial National Carillon
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean Traditional

Preludium voor Beiaard (for Carillon) Staf Nees

HYMNS

Faith of our Fathers (St. Catherine) H.F. Hemy

O God, Our Help in Ages Past (St. Anne) W. Croft

These two hymns were played at the request of Mrs. Davis and Dr. Davis at the first recital played on the Davis Memorial Carillon, September 1937, and again at the dedication in 1938.

ARRANGEMENTS BY KAMIEL LEFÈVÈRE

Heeft het roosje milde geuren Peter Benoit
(The little rose has mild fragrances)

Minuet in G Ludwig van Beethoven

Mr. Lefèvere played the Davis Memorial Carillon at its dedication in 1938.

Preludium in F Edwin Nielsen

Summer Mist Frank P. Law

Theme from "New York, New York" John Kander

The River Seine Guy Lafarge

I Love Paris Cole Porter

Around the World in 80 Days Harold Adamson & Victor Young

DUETS for CARILLON

The Children's Marching Song Malcolm Arnold

Yankee Doodle Boy George M. Cohan

Malaguena (Arranged by Frank DellaPenna) Ernesto Lucuona

Played by JOANNE DROPPERS and MR. LAW

*Arranged for carillon by Mr. Law

In addition to his position as Carillonneur at the Washington Memorial National Carillon, Mr. Law is Director-Carillonneur of the Netherlands Carillon in Arlington, VA, and the Schulmerich Carillon in Sellersville, PA. Mr. Law holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Temple University and studied carillon with Kamiel Lefèvere and Percival Price. He has performed on many of the carillons here and abroad and is a past president of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America.

THE DAVIS MEMORIAL CARILLON

A carillon is a musical instrument consisting of 23 or more cast bronze (an alloy of approximately 80% copper and 20% tin) cup-shaped bells, which have been precisely tuned so that many bells can be sounded together to produce a harmonious effect. It is normally played from a baton-type keyboard, the lowest keys of which are duplicated by a pedalboard. By means of an entirely mechanical wire linkage between the bells and the keyboard, the carillonneur is able to produce all the subtleties of musical expression. Carillon bells are hung stationary; only the clappers move.

The Davis Memorial Carillon consists of 47 bells (four octaves). The bourdon, or lowest bell, weighs 3850 pounds and sounds the D below middle C. Music played on this instrument is transposed up one whole tone. 18 bells were cast by Pieter Hemony in 1674; 12 bells were cast by Joris Dumery, c. 1737; 1 bell was cast by Andreas Van den Gheyn in 1784; 10 bells were cast by Petit and Fritsen in 1953; 6 bells were cast by Petit and Fritsen in 1977. (Four of the bells procured for the original thirty-five bell carillon have been replaced.)

The carillon was given to Alfred University by alumni and dedicated in 1938 as a "living memorial to the living Davises"—Boothe Colwell Davis and his wife, Estelle Hoffman Davis. Dr. Davis was President of Alfred University from 1895 to 1933. Mrs. Davis died in 1939 and Dr. Davis in 1942.

The Alumni Carillon Committee made one request as they presented the bells: "That the music of these ancient bells shall be ever used to usher in the ancient Sabbath that is the type of the traditional faith of this community and this college."

Carillon recitals are now played:

Fridays 7:00-7:30 P.M., April through October
(August excepted)

Fridays 4:30-5:00 P.M., November through March
Sundays 2:00-2:45 P.M. (except during August)

The carillon is also played daily at 12:45 when semester classes are in session and on special occasions. The Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Recital Series brings guest recitalists to perform during the six-week Summer Session; at 7:00 P.M. each Tuesday.

ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

As it stood in 1981, the Davis Memorial Carillon was an open structural steel tower approximately 70 feet high. The bells were hung in three rows at the top of the tower beneath a wooden roof. The carillonneur's cabin was hung beneath the lowest row of bells. Access to the cabin and the bell level was by means of a series of steep stairs within the open framework of the tower.

The program for enclosure included provisions for a visitor orientation and museum space, a carillonneur's office, and an expanded playing cabin to enhance the use of the carillon as a teaching instrument. The architectural program included maintaining the clarity and simplicity of the structural steel tower, providing better access to the new levels, and improving the acoustics.

The intent of the design is to create a structure which is beautiful to the eye just as the music of its bells is beautiful to the ear. The perceptive visitor to the tower can experience the sense of mystery and wonder, the fragmentary glimpses of natural and manmade harmonies, that the perceptive listener can experience in a distinctive piece of music.

The result, like a counterpoint in crystal, is a new bronze glass tower rising within the original structural steel framework, extending beyond it to the east to enclose a new and gentler stair. The glass tower houses the visitor orientation and museum space on Level 1, the carillonneur's office on Level 2, an open observation deck and the bass bell carriage on Level 3, and an enlarged carillonneur's cabin on Level 4. The carillonneur is now seated among the bells, and the shortened mechanical linkage from the playing console to the higher bells allows for a more responsive playing technique. The acoustic resonance is greatly improved by the addition of rubber-tiled concrete surfaces above and below the bells.

As it now stands in 1983, the Davis Memorial Carillon embodies Friedrich von Schiller's concept of architecture as frozen music. An exploration of the tower is a concert in form and space.

Philip B. Prigmore, 1983

...the Voice of Alfred's Carillon

*Between the heavens and the earth we stand
To lift men's hearts and bring them near to God!
Earth-born we were, but now we ride the wind,
Shout to the thunder, whisper to the stars,
Call to the hills: "Be joyful in the Lord!"*

Elsie Binns, 1938