

Tower Notes

News from the Wellesley College Guild of Carillonners

THE GUILD TAKES DC

In March, the Guild went on an overnight trip to Maryland and Washington DC, where we performed on three carillons in two days! Our first destination was the National Cathedral in DC, where we met Dr. Ed Nassor, the resident carrillonneur. Many thanks to our wonderful host, Erin (Class of 2001) for opening her home to us while we were in town!



After the Cathedral, we headed to the Tagart Memorial Chapel carillon at the McDonough School in Maryland, where we met up with two Wellesley alumna and a Wellesley parent: Liz Sesler-Beckman ('85), Sharon Drevitch Dondes ('85) and Katie Michaelson.



The next stop was Frederick, Maryland, where we met carrillonneur John Widmann at the Baker Park Carillon. Frederick County is the birthplace of Francis Scott Key, so every concert at Baker Park includes a performance of the Star-Spangled Banner!

FALL ROAD TRIP

For our fall road trip, we visited the carillons at Trinity Springfield, UMass Amherst, and Yale. Many thanks to Rebecca Isaacson, Richard Nathorst, and Anne Lu for hosting us at these wonderful carillons, and we look forward to visiting again!



GEERT D'HOLLANDER MASTERCLASS

Family and Friends weekend has become a grand affair at Wellesley. The guild has gone equally grand by opening the tower for a masterclass given by professional carillonneurs from around the continent. This year the guild hosted Geert D'hollander, who performs and teaches at Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales FL. This was his second visit to campus - he loves working with the Wellesley students! We have also hosted Laura Ellis from Florida State, Tiffany Ng from University of Michigan, Ellen Dickinson from Yale, Joey Brink from University of Chicago, and Lisa Lonie from Princeton.



APPRENTICES & ADVANCEMENTS

A huge congratulations to the newest members of the Guild! We have six new apprentices this semester:

Erika Guo (2023), **Avni Iyer** (2023), **Paige Anderson** (2020), **Jackie Gong** (2022), **Brynne Ruark** (2023), and **Grace Deng** (2023).

An additional congratulations to **Brynne, Grace, Erika, Paige,** and **Avni** for advancing to become junior members!

SPRING 2020 EVENTS

22 February 2-4pm: Cari-Radio Open Tower

12 March 12:45-2:15pm: Community Time Open Tower - bring your professor!

4 April 2-4pm: Spring Recital Open Tower

29 April Ruhlman Advancement Recitals

2 May 2-4pm Change Ringing Open Tower

30-31 May Commencement

5-7 June Reunion

COACH'S CORNER

I am happy to report that the guild is strong, and the carillon is ringing out over campus better than ever.

We average about 20-25 members, and they perform in close to 200 concerts and events every semester. We're a part of the music department now, and students may now study carillon for credit. We bring in guest teachers and players, and all are impressed with the caliber of the students' playing. We go on two road trips each semester, and are always welcomed to play wherever we go. About three times as many students apply to join as we have space for each fall - we are a busy and popular org!

We've also had some hardships. Winters are more unpredictable than they used to be, and one fierce winter storm caused enough damage to the tower so that it has been closed to the public for the past 20 months. Open towers have not been so open, and I have had to turn some of you away when you've asked to visit. That will soon change, though - the college will repair the bell tower during this winter break. Work will start after the last day of classes, and is scheduled to be finished at the start of the spring semester. Once the work is done, the tower will be reopened to everyone. Watch for an invitation to come to an open tower that will genuinely be open to all of you - I look forward to inviting you back to visit your bells.