

Wingate Summer Carillon Recital Series set to begin in July at Alfred University

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ALFRED, NY July in Alfred means the bells of Davis Memorial Carillon on the Alfred University campus will soon be ringing out music played by visiting artists in the 2018 Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Recital Series.

The popular annual concert series begins Tuesday, July 10, and will continue each Tuesday through the end of the month. The concerts are free and open to the public.

Visiting artists who will play the 47-bell carillon are: Tatiana Lukyanova, who opens the concert series at 6 p.m. July 10; Jim Fackenthal, playing the bells on July 17; Gordon Slater, July 24; and Carlo van Ulft, July 31. With the exception of Lukyanova's opening concert, the performances will begin at 7 p.m.

Listeners will recognize many familiar musical selections, drawn from both classical and pop repertoires. They will include Handel's Suite in D minor for Harpsichord; selections from Fiddler on the Roof and Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory; Let Me Call You Sweetheart and Killing Me Softly With His Song; and excerpts from Les Misérables.

Alfred University's Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Recital Series honors the first University carillonneur, Dr. Ray Wingate, professor of organ, who served as carillonneur from the arrival of the first 35 bells on campus in 1937 until his death in 1968. More than 20 additional bells were added over the years, some replacing original bells, and a new keyboard was installed in 1953, covering four octaves from C to C. Pedals span one octave, plus a musical fifth. The original tower on which the bells were hung was an oil derrick, harkening back to the days when the Alfred and Wellsville areas were part of the northeast oil and gas fields mined for carbon-based fuels. The current steel tower was built in 1953, and modified in 1980.

The Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Recital Series is generously funded by the Margaret Merrill and Ray Winthrop Wingate Memorial Carillon Foundation. The summer series was created by the late Margaret "Peggy" Wingate Rase to recognize and honor her parents' love of carillons and their dedication to the Davis Memorial Carillon.

Concerts are held rain or shine and guests are advised to bring folding chairs and warm clothes. The opening concert July 10 is being held as part of the Fifth Annual MostArts Festival hosted by Alfred University.

Host for the July 10 recital is Steve Crandall, Alfred University librarian emeritus. Also hosting the series is Laurel Buckwalter, Alfred University carillonneur emerita. Crandall, who learned to play the carillon during his undergraduate years at Alfred, and Buckwalter will be available to answer questions about the carillon. Guests are also welcome to climb the 69 steps to the top of the carillon, enjoy the view, and watch the guest artists perform.