

Middlebury carillonneur to present second recital in carillon series

7/07/05

George Matthew Jr., carillonneur at Middlebury College and Norwich University, both in Vermont, will present this week's Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Series concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, at the Davis Memorial Carillon on the Alfred University campus. Matthew will open his recital with "Basse et dessus de trompette" by Louis Marchaud. Other selections include "Partita Dorica" by Herman Roestraete; "Two Toggenberger Danses" by Elsbeth Forrer; "Variations on a Flemish folksong (The Little Fisherman)" by Ghislain Poussele; "Minuet from Symphony #104" by Haydn; and "Through the Meadows to Kortrik" by Chris Dubois. He will close his program with "Capriccio" by Wilhelm Ritter, and two ragtime pieces, "Bird Brain Rag" by Joseph Lamb and "Red Pepper Rag" by Imogene Giles. Matthew has been carillonneur at the colleges since 1986. A church organist since the age of 13, Matthew is currently director of music at Middlebury Congregational Church. Until his retirement in 1998, he was carillonneur of the First Presbyterian Church, organist and choir master at St. Andrew' Church and associate organist at St. Mauricius Church. For 18 years, he served as organist and choirmaster of Temple Sinai, and for 23 years was director of instrumental music at Rogers School, both in Stamford. During his career, he has made 25 carillon concert tours of the United States and 11 of Europe. He has composed and arranged about 100 pieces of music for the carillon, including a number of ragtime piano works; his rather unusual European debut was in an all-ragtime program in Ostende, Belgium. A carillonneur member of the Guild since 1980, Matthew has served on the carillon directory committee, the student achievement committee and the Bellfounding in America Committee. He made the U.S. presentation in 1990 at the World Carillon Federation. The Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Series honors the memory of Dr. Ray Winthrop Wingate, who served as a professor of music at Alfred University for 56 years. When the bells of the Davis Memorial Carillon were installed in 1937, he was named University Carillonneur, a position he held until his death in 1968 at the age of 82. Widely known as a carillonneur, Wingate arranged more than 5,000 selections for the carillon and composed nine suites for the instrument. He was a member and president of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America. The Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Series is funded by the Margaret Merrill and Ray W. Wingate Memorial Carillon Foundation. Margaret Wingate Rase, a long-time Alfred resident, is trustee of the Foundation.