

Summer Carillon Recital Series begins

6/27/08

Performing first in the 2008 Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Recital Series, hosted by Alfred University, will be Karel Keldermans of Springfield, IL. The music begins Tuesday, July 1, at 7 p.m. Guests may sit on the lawn adjacent to the Davis Memorial Carillon on the Alfred University Campus. The concerts will continue each Tuesday in July, at 7 p.m. Keldermans has a reputation as one of the finest carillonneurs in North America, with experience playing concerts around the world for the past 30 years. He was president of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America (GCNA) for five years and served on its board of directors for nine years. Along with his wife, Linda, Keldermans was honored with the Berkeley Medal for "Distinguished Service to the Carillon" in 1998. They also joined forces as authors of the book "Carillon: The Evolution of a Concert Instrument." Keldermans has shared his talents with Springfield, IL, as the director of the International Carillon Festival and fulltime carillonneur for over 30 years. He continues to spread his music through his six solo CDs. Keldermans studied with Piet van den Broek at the Royal Carillon School, where he graduated "With Great Distinction." He also studied independently at the Dutch Carillon School with Peter Bakker. Keldermans has a master's degree from the University of Illinois in carillon performance and campanology. Keldermans' seven-piece program for the summer series will feature pieces by Shostakvitch, Knox, Wather, and Cook. The lineup for the remainder of the July series includes: John Widmann, Frederick, MD; Gordon Slater, Ottawa, Canada; Lisa Lonie, Blue Bell, PA; Helen Hawley from Hudsonville, MI. The Wingate Memorial Carillon Recital Series honors Dr. Ray Winthrop Wingate (1886-1968), who was a professor of music at AU for 56 years. After the installation of the bells in 1937, he was appointed the University carillonneur and continued in the position until his death. He arranged over 5,000 selections for the carillon and composed nine suites. The Margaret Merrill and Ray W. Wingate Memorial Carillon Foundation funds the series. The carillon at Alfred University is made of a double row of rounded oak levers, called batons (which are struck with loosely clenched fists), with a pedal board (octave and a fifth). The ground floor display by the carillon has information on its history. Guests are welcome to climb the 69 steps to the top to enjoy the view and watch the guest artists at work.