

Final concert in summer carillon series slated for Tuesday evening

7/22/08

The closing performer in the 2008 Alfred University Summer Carillon Recital Series is Helen Hawley of Hudsonville, MI. Pieces from Bach, Gerken, Johnson, and Prise will be included in her eight-piece performance on Tuesday, July 29, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Alfred University carillon. The concert is free of charge; guests may sit on the lawn adjacent to the carillon. Hawley holds both bachelor's and master's degrees of music in organ performance from the University of Kansas, and has studied in Cologne, Germany. She has performed extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Belgium, and the Netherlands. An active member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America, Hawley is on the organization's board of directors and the membership enrichment committee. She is currently minister of music at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Grand Rapids, 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 artist at work.