

Third performance of summer carillon series at Alfred University

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ALFRED, N.Y., July 2014 Alfred University (AU) will host Laura Ellis, associate professor of music at the University of Florida, on Tuesday, July 22, the third performer in this year's Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Series.

Ellis achieved carillonneur status in the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America (GCNA) in 2010. She has since served on the organization's board of directors as Director of the Music and Publications Committee. She is also an active member of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), and is currently in her second term as Councilor for Region IV (Southeast).

In addition to her regular performances on the carillon in Century Tower on the University of Florida campus, Ellis has performed solo carillon recitals in The Netherlands, Australia, Canada, and the United States. She was a featured recitalist at the International Carillon Festival in Springfield, Illinois.

This free recital begins at 7 p.m., and will include songs from Disney's "Cinderella," as well as songs from composers around the world.

The recital will be held rain or shine. If inclement weather persists, Howell Hall will be open for indoor seating.

Ellis holds a doctoral degree in organ performance from the University of Kansas, where she studied carillon with Albert Gerken, a widely renowned carillonneur. She served as a professor of music at McMurry University and held the position of parish organist at the episcopal church of the Heavenly Rest in Abilene, Texas.

The Wingate Memorial Carillon Recital Series honors Dr. Ray Winthrop Wingate, who was a professor of music at Alfred University for 56 years. After the installation of the bells in 1937, he was appointed university carillonneur and continued in the position until his death in 1968. He arranged more than 5,000 selections for the carillon and composed nine suites. The series is funded by the Margaret Merrill and Ray W. Wingate Memorial Carillon Foundation.

The carillon at Alfred University is made of a double row of rounded oak levers, called batons, with a pedal board of an 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.