

Fort Myers, FL carillonneur next to perform in Wingate summer '15 recital series

7/08/15



The third guest carillonneur in Alfred University's (AU) Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Recital Series will be Lee Cobb, organist and choirmaster at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Fort Myers, FL.

Cobb will entertain on Tuesday, July 21, at 7 p.m. His hour-long program will include popular selections by the Beatles, Erroll Gerner, Meredith Wilson, and Scott Joplin as well as classical works by Lopez, Back, and Borodin.

Cobb is a published composer of many works for carillon, chorus, and organ. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, he earned a master of music degree in organ performance from the University of Florida.

The next and final visiting performer for 2015, Sue Bergren, will play Tuesday, July 28 at 7 p.m. Bergren regularly performs on the Naperville (IL) Millennium Carillon.

The summer carillon recitals, played on the University's Davis Memorial Carillon, are free and open to all. The sound of the carillon is best enjoyed on the lawns near the carillon tower where picnicking is encouraged, or from a vantage point on Upper College Drive. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Performances will be conducted rain or shine but if inclement weather persists, nearby Howell Hall will be open to visitors.

The only view from the ground of the carillonneur in action is found on the lawn in front of the apartments behind Howell Hall. Visitors are also welcome to climb the 69 steps to the top of the carillon tower to watch the artist in action. There is an information display on the history of the carillon on the ground floor of the tower.

The AU Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Recital Series is conducted in memory of Dr. Ray Winthrop Wingate (1886-1968), professor of music at AU for 56 years. Wingate also served as University Carillonneur from 1937, when the bells were installed, until his death. He arranged more than 5,000 selections for the carillon during his time at AU and composed nine suites for the instrument.

The programming is funded by the Margaret Merrill and Ray W. Wingate Memorial Carillon Foundation. Alfred resident Margaret Wingate Rase is the trustee.

The Davis Memorial Carillon, named after the late AU President Boothe Colwell Davis, is a 47-bell instrument. The carillon is made of a double row of rounded oak levers, called batons, plus a pedal board tuned in the fifth octave.