

Canadian carillonneur presents third concert in AU summer series

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Canadian carillonneur Gordon Slater will bring his musical talent to the Alfred University carillon for the third in a series of five Tuesday evening programs, July 15, at 7 p.m. The performance is free; guests may sit on the lawn adjacent to the Davis Memorial Carillon on the Alfred University Campus. Slater will present a 12-piece performance featuring music by Price, Gheyn, Tilzer, and Bos. His program will include a wide variety of selections from carillon originals to classical transcriptions to "Bridge Over Troubled Water" and "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." Slater held the position of carillonneur at four Canadian carillons: Rainbow Tower Carillon, Niagara Falls, Ontario; Carlsberg Carillon of the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto; Soldiers' Tower Carillon of the University of Toronto; Dominion Carillonneur of Canada (appointed in 1977), from which he recently retired after 31 years of service. He has given numerous guest carillon recitals in Canada, the United States, England, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, and has made several carillon recordings. Starting at the age of four on the piano, Slater's musical talent soon led him to playing the carillon at the age of seven with his father James. Slater has been a member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America since 1978 and was co-editor with his wife Elsa of the organization's annual Bulletin from 1979-85. Slater shares his talents with others by conducting the Divertimento Orchestra, a 70-piece amateur symphony, and plays bassoon and contrabassoon with the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra. The remainder of the carillon recital series lineup includes: 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. Concerts continue each Tuesday in July, same time, same place.