

Michigan musician to close 2002 carillon recital series

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Alfred University's Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Series winds up with a recital by Michigan musician Julia Walton. The free performance is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 23. Walton's program includes three pieces written for carillon by Theophil Rusterholz, plus Bach's "Sheep May Safely Graze." There will also be three hymns, four short pieces by Mozart, a John Knox chorale partita, "Le Cygne" ("The Swan") from Saint-Saens's "Carnival of the Animals," some British folk music, three popular American songs including Gershwin's "Summertime," and, to close, Irving Berlin's "God Bless America." Walton earned a bachelor's degree in organ performance from the University of Michigan, where she first studied the carillon. She studied at the Netherlands Carillon School for three months in 2000 and three months in 2001. A veteran performer, she has played recitals across the United States and in Canada, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Spain. She currently plays the Beaumont Tower Carillon at Michigan State University and is the organist at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Lansing. She is a member of the Lansing Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and a carillonneur member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America. In addition to her musical career, Walton earned a master's degree in social work from Michigan State and worked 14 years as a therapist with community mental health. The Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Series, named for 56-year AU professor of music Dr. Ray Winthrop Wingate (1886-1968), is funded by the Margaret Merrill and Ray W. Wingate Memorial Carillon Foundation. Margaret Wingate Rase is the trustee. Dr. Wingate also served as University Carillonneur from 1937, when the bells were installed, until his death. The recitals are free and open to all. The sound of the carillon is best enjoyed on the lawns, where picnicking is encouraged, or on Upper College Drive. 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 may also climb the 69 steps to the top to watch the artist, but are cautioned to be quiet.