

Alfred University to host four concerts in Wingate Summer Carillon Recital Series

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Alfred University's Davis
Memorial Carillon

ALFRED, NY – The annual Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Recital Series returns to Alfred next month, with a quartet of visiting musicians performing weekly on Alfred University's Davis Memorial Carillon.

The popular concert series begins Tuesday, July 9, and will continue each Tuesday through July 30. The concerts are free and open to the public.

Visiting artists who will play the 47-bell carillon are: Carl Van Eyndhoven, who opens the concert series at 6 p.m. July 7; Alex Johnson, on July 16; Margaret Pan, on July 23; and Geert D'hollander, on July 30. With the exception of Van Eyndhoven's opening concert, the performances will begin at 7 p.m.

Listeners will recognize many familiar musical selections, drawn from both classical and pop repertoires. They will include pieces by Frederic Chopin ("Nocturne, op. 9, no. 2") and Franz Schubert ("Standchen"); Leonard Bernstein ("I Feel Pretty," from) and George Gershwin "Oh Lady be Good" and "The Man I Love"); "Imagine" by John Lennon; and "Send In the Clowns" (Stephen Sondheim) and "The Rainbow Connection" (Paul Williams and Kenny Ascher), a nod to Show Tunes of the '70s.

Alfred University's Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Recital Series honors the first University carillonneur, Dr. Ray Wingate, professor of organ, who served as carillonneur from the arrival of the first 35 bells on campus in 1937 until his death in 1968. More than 20 additional bells were added over the years, some replacing original bells, and a new keyboard was installed in 1953, covering four octaves from C to C. Pedals span one octave, plus a musical fifth. The original tower on which the bells were hung was an oil derrick, harkening back to the days when the Alfred and Wellsville areas were part of the northeast oil and gas fields mined for carbon-based fuels. The current steel tower was built in 1953, and modified in 1980.

The Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Recital Series is generously funded by the Margaret Merrill and Ray

Winthrop Wingate Memorial Carillon Foundation. The summer series was created by the late Margaret “Peggy” Wingate Rase to recognize and honor her parents’ love of carillons and their dedication to the Davis Memorial Carillon.

Concerts will be held rain or shine and guests are advised to bring folding chairs and warm clothes. The opening concert July 9 is being held as part of the Sixth Annual MostArts Festival hosted by Alfred University. Host for the concert series is Laurel Buckwalter, Alfred University carillonneur emerita, who will be available to answer questions about the carillon. Guests are also welcome to climb the 69 steps to the top of the carillon, enjoy the view, and watch the guest artists perform.