

Illinois organist/carillonneur to close out summer '15 Wingate recital series

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Sue Bergren, principal organist at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Naperville, IL will be the final 2015 guest for Alfred University's (AU) Wingate Memorial Summer Carillon Recital Series Tuesday, July 28 beginning at 7 p.m. at the University's Davis Memorial Carillon.

Bergren is active as a carillon recitalist and regularly performs on the Naperville Millennium Carillon. Her Alfred program will include "Concerto Grosso I" by Barnes; a "Shall We Dance" trio of pieces including "Bethena," a concert waltz by Scott Joplin, "Valse-Caprice" by Knox, and dance from "Hansel and Gretel" by Engelbert Humperdinck; three folk tunes "Australiana" by Myhre, "The Ural Rowan Tree" by Rodygin, "Scottish Fantasy" by Courter; classical pieces including "Slavonic Dance" by Dvorak, "Variations on a Theme by Mozart" by Giuliani, and "Le Cygne" from "Le Carnaval des animaux" by Saint-Saens; for the young at heart "Fantasy on Sunday School Hymns" by Gouwens, and "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" by Courter; and a rousing band-piece finish of "Under the Double Eagle" by Wagner.

Bergren serves on the board of directors for the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America, is a co-editor for the Guild's newsletter, and runs a small publishing company for carillon music. She earned a master's degree in organ performance from Northern Illinois University.

AU's summer carillon recitals 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 are 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.