

Belgian carillonneur to perform final recital in 2013 summer series

7/23/13

The fourth and final program - Tuesday, July 30 - for Alfred University's (AU) 2013 Wingate Summer Carillon Recital Series will feature Phillippe Beullens, assistant carillonneur for the City of Leuven, Belgium. The music begins at 7 p.m.; admission is free and open to the public.

Held rain or shine, Beullens' program will include a meshing of celebrated works from the old world and the new by names such as Bach, Borodin, and Rachmaninov, and Nino Rota, Jacques Brel, Billy Joel, and Michael Jackson.

Seating for the event will be on the lawn adjacent to the carillon. Guests are welcome to bring lawn chairs to ease their listening experience. In the event of rain, seating will be offered inside nearby Susan Howell Hall.

The summer carillon series is funded by the Margaret Merrill and Ray Winthrop Wingate Memorial Carillon Foundation.

The Wingate series honors Dr. Ray Winthrop Wingate (1886-1968), who was a professor of music at Alfred University for 56 years. After he was appointed the position of the University's first carillonneur, Wingate held that title until his death, having arranged over 5,000 selections for the carillon and composed nine suites.

Erected in 1937 as a living memorial to AU President Dr. Boothe Colwell Davis and his wife Estelle Hoffman Davis, the University carillon has been tolling for over seven decades.

The carillon tower's ground floor display has information on its historic legacy beginning with bells in World War II era Antwerp, Belgium. During the program guests are welcome to climb the tower's 69 steps to the top and enjoy the view of Alfred's iconic hillside as the music rolls over them.

Thanks to AU Carillonneur Laurel Buckwalter the sound of bells throughout the village remains a testament to AU's vitality. When classes are in session, the carillon is played four times a week, and during the summer months at least once a week.