6 STUDENTS TAKE CARILLON LESSONS

The entire carillon class list included all returning students for Fall 2017. A final concert was held on Friday, Dec 8th.

Students included:

- Jason Cheng, junior in Electrical Engineering
- Casey Cunningham, senior in Finance
- Taylor Decker, senior in Mechanical Engineering
- Macklin Derscheid, sophomore in Music
- Johnathan Germick, senior in Electrical Engineering
- Sarah Reger, sophomore in Accounting

A festive final concert was held on December 8th.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JOHNATHAN GERMICK

I have only been stopped by the police a few times in my life. None of them are interesting enough to discuss. Except one. Someone called the police on me while playing in the Campanile. It was the beginning of my sophomore year, and I was excited to play the carillon again after a long summer. It was the beginning of the semester and I had already learned one piece. It was a piece I really liked, and not another Baroque piece.

At around 7:00 pm I finally began playing, about 10 minutes later I heard a door slam and rapid heavy footsteps shaking the Campanile. I was only a little nervous and continued playing this soft and delicate cortege until the police officer interrupted me. He said someone had called saying that someone had broken into the Campanile and was banging on the bells. He continued saying it sounds like music to me, but I still need to see your ID. While lamenting the fact that my playing sounded like uncoordinated banging, I explained to him that I get to come up here as part of a class and that I had to relinquish my university ID to the MU front desk. He believed me, told me that it sounded like a fun classes and went down the stairs. I finished playing the piece where I left off with as much musicality as possible to further convince the officer that the passerby who called him was crazy. I like to think that since this was the beginning of the semester, the caller had never heard the bells before and was also standing between Curtis and Heady so that he/she heard lots of echoing. A long shot, but it makes me feel better. This story always reminds me of the best and worst part of being a Carillonneur, everyone can listen, or rather, must listen.
**Campanile Model Update**

This semester, students in the ME 415 mechanical engineering capstone project class hoped to start building this semester. “They said we would be building and I wanted to do that. I felt I had some previous internship experience that would be useful in the building phase. We didn’t get to build, but it was still a good project”, Jeffrey Grayczyk.

The five ME students who chose to work on this project included:

- Matthew Eckdahl
- Jeffrey Grayczyk
- Jacob Jordan
- Eric Riesberg
- Samuel Wendt

Matthew Eckdahl shared his reason for choosing this project: “I liked the idea of working on a project that was multi-semester. I could put my own personal flair on something”.

Every semester students enjoy working with others from different disciplines on this project. This team thought the hardest part of the project was the organization of files from previous semesters. They continually thought—what was the team thinking when they did this. Luckily, alumnus and former ME model project member Patrick Keep came back to campus multiple times to provide his expertise and continuity to the project.

Once again, the team revised and updated the previous semester’s work. Team Lead Jacob describes below the work done.

The Senior Design team made many improvements to the designs laid out from the previous 5 project teams. One advancement was removing the need for a pallet jack, and implementing casters. These industrial strength wheels allow for easier alignment, attachment, and transportation of the design all while being under our height limit to make it through an average doorway. With this change, the frame needed to be altered slightly. Matthew Eckdahl headed this part of the project where he locked down the SolidWorks model.

Also added were outrigger benches. These parts are placed on the keyboard side for a players bench, and the opposite side for a photo op location. They act as decorative pieces, but also allow for a stronger resistance to wind that may knock the design over otherwise. Jeff Grayczyk led this part of the design, specifically nailing down a way to create a photo op bench that matched the design of the bench that is next to the campanile. This bench will mimic a solid stone bench while being made out of wood. This makes the design easier to manufacture as well as cheaper while still looking like a quality piece.

Another major portion included overhauling the scissor lift. The previous designs did not include the details of how to actually raise the lift to full height, and had safety mechanisms that created safety hazards. Eric Riesberg created a new design using more lightweight and strong materials and made a jack screw driven system of lifting the model. With the new changes, the scissor lift will be able to function easier and be safer for the end users to handle.

The last major adjustments were in the facade of the model. Prior groups had proposed a wire mesh facade to be draped over the entire outside to act as a "skin". They also intended to keep the side structures open so that onlookers could see the mechanisms inside. Because of the safety concerns of leaving the side structures open, Sam Wendt worked to implement a clear plexiglass covering for these side structures. This way audience members would be able to see the mechanisms that make the bells ring while being unable to hurt themselves on those mechanisms. Additionally, certain sheets of the plexiglass are able be removed so that audience members can interact with the bells in a safe way.

During the project, many different material suppliers and advisors were needed to make decisions. Jacob headed up the communication with the project advisors, and made sure all the wheels on the team were heading in the same direction.

While we will not be able to finish the project through the building phase, the team is excited about the fine detail work we were able to accomplish. We are very happy to have made large contributions to the completion of the Campanile.
Alumni Spotlight: Rod Bennett

In our outreach to solicit donations for the Carillon-Campanile model, I heard from additional alumni. Rod Bennett reached out to me.

“I attended ISU in the early 80’s and graduated in ’82. My grandfather was an ISU alumni as well and gave me a very old photo of the carillon that I keep in my den. I was a carillon student during my university years and played the instrument (climbing the spiral staircase and everything).”

Rod found a picture of a long poem he wrote titled The Phantom of the Carillon. It was published in Carillon News—the newsletter of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America in April 1984.

The Phantom of the Carillon

by Rod Bennett

The tower rose of stone and steel
Straight from the grassy plain.
The sides were clung with ivy,
A coat to shed the rain.
Long had it stood, through fire and years,
And years of peace and plenty.
The date was carved above the door.
Eighteen hundred and twenty.
The ages seemed to touch it not,
It stood without a mark.
Yet as time was and time had made
Its shadow in the dark.

The tower enclosed the bells,
They ranged from large to small,
The biggest one weighed full two ton,
The smallest, not at all.

To reach the bench to play these bells
One had to grope and climb
A steep, dark stair of grey and oak
All hung with dust and time.

Light cast from lanterns by the bench
Shed an eerie glow.
Shadows danced within the fire
Like water and flow.

The listel of the door below
Was ringed with chiseled stone.
Wreathed flowers and ivy frozen there
Carved by men unknown.

The door itself was iron, cold
And made in bars along.
The top, and bottom of the gate.
To make it hard and strong.

They rang these bells of bronze and brass
As soon, and every hour.
When were clanged forth their frozen song
All eyes turned toward the tower.

At night the faces of the clock
Cast light from deep within.
Their hands marked off the lives of men
In minutes made of tin.

Twas late at night, a cold harsh night.
The winter of the year
Held tight the frozen countryside.
In grip both hard and same.

Such a night when sound of stone
Or branch or stick when cracked
Gives forth a note - patent, harsh.
That leaves the nerves attacked.

Upon the dark, a low, low noise
Of grating lock and rusty hinge
Fell upon the sleeping air
Like restless moments of a knife.
The silence trembled to the feel
Of restless spirits strawberries.
While in the spine a flickering light
Climbed the bells aloft.
C-HOP Festival by Sarah Reger

Iowa State University Department of Music and Theatre hosted the C-HOP Festival on the 15th and 16th of September, 2017. The Festival focused on dance music for carillon, harpsichord, organ and piano with performances, workshops and lectures. Guest artists included Luc Rombouts (carillon) from University of Leuven, Belgium, Sylvia Coats (piano) & Denise Celestin (dance) from Wichita State University, Kansas, and Caroline Hong (piano) from The Ohio State University, Ohio.

The Festival began with the first of two workshops led by Sylvia Coats and Denise Celestin. The first workshop focused on the Baroque dances while the second day participants learned Romantic dances from the 19th century. Both workshops utilized and taught full body movement in historical and practical contexts.

The Opening Concert in the evening featured performances by ISU keyboard faculty and students. Program included the premiere of Tango for Carillon by Chad Cagle, the winning composition of the ISU Carillon Composition Competition 2017. Chad is currently a senior in music industry at St. Mary’s University of Minnesota, Winona. The ISU Carillon Composition Competition is held every two years to encourage the writing of original carillon compositions by young composers under age 35. This year contestants were from Ukraine, Montreal, Buffalo, Tallahassee, Hammond, LA, San Marcos, TX, and Winona, MN.

On Friday, C-HOP Festival attendees also had the opportunity to participate in private lessons with ISU music faculty Mei-Hsuan Huang (piano), Janci Bronson (piano), Tin-Shi Tam (carillon), and Miriam Zach (harpsichord and organ).

Saturday morning brought the two master classes led by Luc Rombouts on the carillon, and Caroline Hong on the piano.

Dr. Rombouts also presented a lecture titled “Did the Flemish really dance to carillon music?”. His lecture focused on the history of the carillon, while debunking myths and theories of what the carillon was used for. Later, Dr. Zach gave the first lecture-recital on dance music for organ and harpsichord. The second lecture-recital was led by Dr. Hong on J.S. Bach’s Goldberg Variations. Dr. Hong skinned through the structure and symmetry of the famous variations, and gave a dazzling performance of that piece.

The Festival concluded with a carillon recital by Dr. Rombouts, which included a variety of dances spanning from the 18th to the 20th century. Audience members were encouraged to dance along with the music using the knowledge from the dance workshops.

Campanile tours were held after the recital, along with a fundraiser for the upcoming Campanile-Carillon model that will be completed in Fall 2018.

Special thanks to the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation for sponsoring the 2017 C-HOP Festival and the ISU Carillon Composition Competition.
Over the past semester the Student Carillonneur Leadership Council has been very busy!

We ran multiple fundraising campaigns and advertised a lot. The first campaign was the during second week of September, throughout the week we had different events. Karaoke with the carillon at the base of the campanile was a very unique experience and we also sold various collectible items and memorabilia. As Dr. Tam played well known songs we had speakers and microphones to sing along with. Dr. Tam never imagined she would play songs like “Friends in Low Places” and “Don’t Stop Believing” and of course “Sweet Caroline” on the carillon at ISU.

A few weeks later we started our online fundraising campaign, this was on a platform through the ISU Foundation webpage FundISU. We are so thankful for the many donors, who have supported our mobile carillon. This semester has been very exciting and we look forward to what next semester will bring, but one thing for sure SCLC is up to the challenge!

**Save the Date**

A 120th Anniversary Concert is set for March 2, 2019 at Stephen’s Auditorium. The concert, as currently envisioned, will include a piece for orchestra and model carillon. Stay tuned for more details.

**Luc Rombouts**

After the C-HOP festival carillon concert, Luc Rombouts came down and answered questions from the audience. Questions included: how long have you played, how does this compare to your home carillon (“Good, I’m not just saying that, it’s cast by Taylor and has good mellow notes”), how did you start playing, and do your hands hurt. I asked Luc to write out his answer to how did you start playing. His story reminds me of so many student carillonneurs’ stories.

During high school, I have been playing the piano. When I was 18, I chose not to continue in music studies, but go to university to study classical languages. After a few year, I wanted to take up my music again by starting to study a new instrument from scratch. While I was still hesitating which instrument of my top 3 to take (guitar, oboe or violoncello), the large carillon of the university library of Leuven was renovated thanks to the efforts of (then) Californian carillonneur Margo Halsted. That was in 1983. At that occasion, a carillon started to give students the opportunity to learn to play the instrument. One of my roommates read an article around it, and showed me that, saying ‘That’s something for you, you should do that’. So, I quit my top 3 and started to learn carillon, out from a sort of curiosity. And after a few months, the carillon virus caught me, and it hasn’t left me since. After one year, I moved to the carillon school in Mechelen, in order to get my carillonneur diploma. I obtained that in 1987. I was appointed city carillonneur in Tienen in 1987 and university carillonneur of Leuven in 1991.
**Campanology Exam**

I would consider it lucky that Dr. Tam does not give a written exam as part of her applied carillon lessons. But if she did, maybe she could use some of the questions from the University of Birmingham campanology exam in 1924. Scott Orr sent out this picture in hopes of gathering information from the GCNA membership on William Wooding Starter, who provided lectures on campanology.

Attached is one of the first examinations in campanology ("Bells, carillons, and chimes") to be set for students: this was based on a set of six lectures delivered by Starmer at the University of Birmingham in 1924. I believe this to be a unique example of early university campanology, if not the first of such. It covers the physical and musical properties of bells, different traditions of bell-ringing and playing, historical culture, carillon mechanics, and carillon composition.

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**Carillon Karaoke**

In order to continue raising money for the campanile carillon model, the Student Carillonneur Leadership Council hosted Carillon Karaoke. It was $50 per group. There was a list of songs to choose from, along with a audio and visual equipment for both the carillonneur and singers to hear each other.

Karaoke List
1. Don't Stop Believin' --- Journey #3
2. Sweet Caroline --- Neil Diamond #13
3. Friends in Low-Places --- Garth Brooks #22
4. Let it go --- Frozen #33
5. Ring of Fire --- Johnny Cash #43
6. Total Eclipse of the Heart --- Bonnie Tyler #49
7. My Heart Will Go On --- Celine Dion #58
8. Sweet Child O Mine --- Guns N Roses #66
9. Sweet Home Alabama --- Lynyrd Skynyrd #74
10. I Want It That Way --- Backstreet Boys #83
11. Imagine --- John Lennon #93
12. Wanna Be --- Spice Girls #99
13. Hey Jude --- The Beatles #108
14. All of Me --- John Legend #127
15. Summer Nights --- Grease #140