

**The 57th Congress of
The Guild of Carillonneurs in North America
Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa**

Recital

Gordon Slater
Friday, June 18, 7:00 pm

PROGRAM

Schilling Prelude (1967)	Leen 't Hart
Two Folksongs from the Canadian Maritimes (1989) Peter Emberley Peter Amberley	arr. Gordon Slater
Variations on an Original Theme (1958)	Violet Archer
The Teddy Bear's Picnic (1973)	John Bratton arr. Gordon Slater
Nochtraî	Aloys Fleischmann
In the Sky from <i>Billy Bishop Goes to War</i> (1978)	John Gray arr. Gordon Slater
Three Canadian Folksongs (1987) Dans les chantiers She's Like the Swallow Cheer, Boys, Cheer for the Dominion Nation	arr. Gordon Slater
The Singing Tower, Op. 34	René Vanstreels

Program Notes

Leen 't Hart (1920-1992) was an eminent Dutch carillonneur, composer and teacher who founded the Royal Dutch Carillon School in Amersfoort. *Schilling Prelude* was composed for the first carillon made by F.W. Schilling of Heidelberg. The notes of the theme spell the founder's name (with a little creative latitude).

The tragic ballad *Peter Emberley* is the most popular of the many lumbering songs of the three Canadian maritime provinces. Peter Amberley was born on Prince Edward Island and came to work in New Brunswick's Miramichi woods in 1880. His death in a logging accident was immortalized in ten stanzas by **John Calhoun** (1848-1939). Naturally spelling variation are common in a primarily oral tradition.

Violet Archer (b.1913) is a celebrated Canadian composer who counts Bartók among her teachers, having studied variation technique in particular with him. Vaughan Williams and Hindemith were other strong influences upon her music. Archer wrote *Variation on an Original Theme* in Norman, Oklahoma during her eight-year tenure at the University of Oklahoma.

The Teddy Bears' Picnic, an English childrens' popular song, was arranged for the Rainbow Tower Carillon in Niagara Falls, Ontario, where the recitalist was the incumbent at the time.

Artist

Gordon Slater



Gordon Slater, born in Toronto in 1950, was given piano lessons at age four and started playing the carillon at age seven by assisting his father, James, Carillonneur at the Metropolitan United Church in Toronto. He later studied the carillon with Milford Myhre. He held the position of Carillonneur at three Canadian carillons: The Rainbow Tower Carillon in Niagara Falls, Ontario; the Carlsberg Carillon of the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto; and the Soldiers' Tower Carillon of the University of Toronto before being appointed Dominion Carillonneur of Canada in 1977. In that capacity he plays the Peace Tower Carillon in a regular recital series and for the special needs of the parliamentarians. He also teaches the carillon. Since 1978, Mr. Slater has been a Carillonneur member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America and was co-editor, with his wife Elsa, of the organization's annual *Bulletin* from 1979 to 1985. Mr. Slater has played numerous guest carillon recitals in Canada, the United States, England and Europe and has made several carillon recordings.



Program Notes, continued

Although born in Germany, **Aloys Fleischmann** has spent most of his working life in Dublin and Cork, Ireland. He is a strong force in the lively arts, with many conducting and compositional credits to his mane. His many compositions include three ballet scores and a song cycle for soprano and harp. *Nochtraí* was written for the carillon in Cobh, Ireland and its thematic source is evidently Gaelic.

John Gray (b. 1946) is a busy Canadian playwright, composer, pianist and actor who has lived and worked in many parts of the country. The Musical *Billy Bishop Goes to War* is enjoying a revival and still features its original cast of two – actor Eric Peterson and Gary (who is also the lyricist) at the piano – it is the story of the famous Canadian flying ace of the First World War.

Dans les chantiers is a Quebec folksong. While "chantier" in France means a workshop, it is used in Canada both for the log hut that houses a lumberman and for the lumber camp. Only the first verse is widely known; subsequent verses are improvised to lengthen the litany of complaints about the hard, winter work. *She's Like the Swallow* is one of the most beautiful Newfoundland folksongs. Both the poetry of the lyric and the unaffected, modal tune evince of Celtic elegance. *Cheer, Boys, Cheer for the Dominion Nation* came from British Columbia which became Canada's sixth province in 1871 only after years of debate within the British colony. Some wanted Britain to bail out the foundering economy. The U.S.A would have been happy to acquire the colony, having just bought Alaska from Russia in 1867. This song urged confederation with Canada.

In addition to holding the position of City Carillonneur of Hasselt for many years, **René Vanstreels** (b. 1925) is an Honorary Professor of Music at the Genk City Music Academy and the Director of the Mirelle Singers. He has composed about 700 works for various musical media. "Singing tower" is a literal English translation of the old Flemish term for a carillon tower.