

SPRING 2008 STUDENT REFLECTIONS

AMY BAINUM

I am graduating with my Master of Education degree in Higher Education this May. At this point, I am looking for jobs at colleges around the Des Moines/Central Iowa area. This will be my Fifth semester overall taking carillon lessons, including two semesters at my undergraduate school and three semesters at Iowa State. It has been a lot of fun to be part of such a big tradition at Iowa State and learn a new instrument in the process. This semester I played

the Simple Suite, Londonderry Air, and the Bells of Iowa State. For my project, I completed a model of the Campanile located near the Duomo in Florence, Italy which I visited this past summer during a study abroad trip. This semester I have also worked on getting over my "stage fright" of playing in front of people (never easy when you are playing is heard across campus). I would love to continue taking carillon lessons in the future, but that depends on

where I end up for my career.



Fall 2007 Final Concert
Robert, Nick, Amy, Amy,
Meghan

ASHLEY ZAPPA

My name is Ashley Zappa and I am a senior in Chemical Engineering. I have been taking Carillon lessons since Fall 2007 and have thoroughly enjoyed my two semesters. I have loved the tradition of the Campanile ever since coming to Iowa State four years ago and was beyond excited to find out during my junior year that there were actually lessons available for students. I am graduating in May and will be moving to

Cedar Rapids, IA to start a full time engineering job with General Mills. I have plans to return to school after working in the field for several years to earn my MBA. I remember my first time playing the actual Campanile on campus and I was so nervous to have everyone hear me, but it was a great feeling to know that the sound I look forward to hearing on campus I was now playing! This semester I have

chosen to create a tall, skinny poster of the Campanile that showcases a "walk up the Campanile", an inside look at the steps up to the bells. I think it will be a great addition to the many other projects that have been done in the past and potentially a poster that can be displayed at future Society of Carillon Alumni meetings.

CHARLOTTE RICTOR

Spring 2008 was my first semester taking carillon lessons. I'm a junior in civil engineering and am involved in ISU music ensembles (symphonic band, marching band) to keep up my playing skills and take a break from engineering. I really enjoy the carillon and the challenge of playing a keyboard and footboard at the same time (it boggled my mind in

the beginning!). I played a total of three times in the bell tower, playing pieces from the beloved "Red Binder" (including Sarabande, Handel's Clock Music, and There Was A Snow-White Bird). No word yet on whether I will continue lessons next semester...engineering eats up my time.



Spring 2008 Final Concert
Robert, Amy, Nick, Ashley,
Charlotte

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY CARILLON FESTIVAL 2007 (CARILLON NEWS, GCNA NOVEMBER 2007)

Iowa State University celebrated its 2007 Carillon Festival at the Stanton Memorial Carillon in Ames, Iowa, on Saturday, April 14. The festival featured guest carillonneur Don Cook of Brigham Young University and composer Jeffrey Prater of Iowa State University in a variety of events enjoyed by both local attendees and, thanks to live webcasting, a registered Internet audience. Iowa State University carillonneur Tin-Shi Tam hosted the event, which was sponsored by the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation.

The day began with a master class, led by Dr. Cook, on performance technique and interpretation. The informal setting gave participants and Web audiences numerous opportunities for questions and answers. The master class was followed by a concert by Iowa State carillonneurs, culminating in a performance of Dr. Prater's *Interfusions* and the premiere of the winning en-

try in the ISU Carillon Composition Competition, *Aller guten Dinge sind drei!* by Daniel Nass of Minneapolis. The Carillon Composition Competition was held to encourage the writing of original carillon compositions by young composers. Judges for the competition were Don Cook, Jeffrey Prater, and Tin-Shi Tam. Entries came from the United States, Canada, and the Netherlands.

After a delightful lunch, Dr. Prater conducted a seminar on *Star Bells*, his composition for carillon and orchestra. *Star Bells*, commissioned by the ISU Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation in celebration of the centennial of the Stanton Memorial Carillon, was premiered in December 2002 at C. Y. Stephens Auditorium and the Campanile on Iowa State's central campus. Dr. Prater discussed the logistical and technical problems faced in the piece's first performance. Especially difficult were the intricate fiber op-

tic connections between the orchestra's concert hall and the carillon's tower that were necessary to allow each location to see and hear what was happening at the other in real time. But Dr. Prater argued that such a setup was better than simply seating an orchestra near the carillon; it allowed the carillon to be heard through speakers at a level that balanced with the orchestra in the hall and not dominate as it would in unmediated form. He also discussed musical aspects of the work and the aesthetic aspects of pairing carillon with orchestra.

The festival concluded with a public concert by Dr. Cook on the Stanton Memorial Carillon. Featuring music from the 18th through the 21st centuries, including arrangements by Dr. Cook himself, the concert was an excellent end to a fine day of carillon.

CARILLON STUDY AT IOWA STATE (CARILLON NEWS, GCNA APRIL 2008) BY AMY BRANDAU

*Make our spirit great, true and
valiant,*

like the Bells of Iowa State.

When Jim Wilson penned these lyrics and the music of "The Bells of Iowa State" in 1930, he could not have predicted that the song would continue to play prominently across Iowa State University's campus decades later. Today's faculty, staff, and students hear "The Bells of Iowa

State" played frequently by either University Carillonneur Tin-Shi Tam or her carillon students. In fact, each carillon student is required to play the song during his or her graduating semester. For me, this was almost eight years ago. This spring I will have the pleasure of playing an encore performance as I graduate with another degree from Iowa State and two more years of carillon lessons. These lessons and all the other ac-

tivities included under "carillon lessons" have been the highlights of both my undergraduate and graduate studies.

As a student at Iowa State, I make a point of crossing campus at noon each day to listen to the daily concert; I see other students on the grassy mall and wonder how many realize they are actually listening to a live performance. When I climb the narrow stairs of the Edgar W. and

SUMMER 2008 CARILLON EVENTS

RAGBRAI STOP IN AMES INCLUDES CAMPANILE TOURS

RAGBRAI riders who made it into the overnight stop of Ames by noon on July 22nd, were treated to a noon carillon concert, which of course included the playing of "The Bells of Iowa State" by James Wilson.

Following the concert campanile tours were given. Braving tired legs, many RAGBRAI riders climbed the stairs to take a look at the bells. Some riders had a per-

sonal tie to Iowa State, other riders had an interest in carillons, while others just thought it would be interesting.

Ames residents who had not previously been up in the playing cabin, also stopped to take the opportunity to climb the stairs and ask questions while looking at the bells.



John Kaplan of St. Paul, Minn., climbs down a ladder after viewing the carillon bells inside the Campanile during a tour at Iowa State University. Behind him is the carillon. He has been on RAGBRAI about 22 times. *Des Moines Register*

Video from the day of RAGBRAI, including The Bells of Iowa State can be viewed at:

<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~nscentral/video/08/7.22.ragbrai.shtml>

CARILLON SUMMER SERIES

Four guest Carillonneurs are taking part in the 2008 Summer Carillon Concert Series.



Laura Ellis, from the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida performed June 21st.



Joseph D. Daniel from Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hill, Michigan performed July 8th.



Trevor Workman from Bournville Schools, Birmingham, England will perform September 2nd.

Marc van Eyck from Sint-Geertruitoren, Leuven, Belgium performed August 5th.



Additional Information can be found at:

<http://www.music.iastate.edu/carillon/SummerSeries2008/Summer2008.php>

2007-2008 YEAR END POINTS OF INTEREST

- 5 students take carillon lessons Fall 2007
- 7 students take carillon lessons Spring 2008
- First Live Webcast on September 7, 2007
- Campanile receives face-lift in Spring 2008 including routine structure maintenance to repair a roof drain, tuck-point the masonry and reseal terra cotta elements on the exterior.

CARILLON STUDY CONTINUED

Margaret MacDonald Stanton Memorial Carillon to practice, I remember that I am a part of history and tradition, one of a very small group of students fortunate enough to take carillon lessons. On a campus of more than 25,000 students, an average of six students take lessons each semester. Iowa State's history of providing carillon lessons to students goes nearly as far back as the carillon has been an icon of Iowa State. Ira Schroeder, the first university carillonneur, began giving lessons in 1931. Since that time, more than a hundred students have taken time out of their busy schedules to take carillon lessons. As one of this privileged group, I have become an advocate for the sustainability of the campanile and carillon as an icon of Iowa State. I have acquired a plethora of knowledge that I share with anyone interested in learning more. Please join me on a short tour of Carillon Study at Iowa State University. . . .

Carillon lessons are open to any university student by audition; the primary prerequisite is an ability to read music. Although carillon instruction may be included in the curriculum that leads to an undergraduate degree in music, the majority of past and current students are non-music majors. Carillon students come from all university departments, with majors in engineering, business, agriculture, human science, and education. Scholarships are provided to one or two students each semester who continue carillon lessons beyond the

first semester.

Lessons are given weekly in the practice room, where a practice console is available 24 hours a day, every day, for both lessons and practice. This allows students to be well prepared before climbing the narrow, winding staircase up the campanile to share their talent with the entire campus. Live practice is limited to evenings and weekends, with ample performance opportunities throughout the semester.

Taking lessons at Iowa State is more than just practicing the recommended one hour per day and performing the required two concert performances. Students taking lessons develop lifelong friendships with each other and gain an appreciation for the instrument. Each semester, students are encouraged to play duets or quartets with their fellow students. Lessons also include ensemble experiences, group discussions on carillon related topics, and semester projects. Semester projects? Absolutely. Each student chooses an individual project to supplement his or her learning experiences. Past projects have included writing and arranging music for carillon, creating poster or multimedia presentations, writing research papers, giving oral presentations, and creating artwork. Students also take field trips to visit other carillons. During spring semesters, students have the opportunity to work with renowned national and international guest carillonneurs during the Carillon Festival, which includes the

Carillon Composition Competition. Most important, carillon students become ambassadors of the carillon, conducting campanile tours and participating in other campus events to raise interest and awareness.

The campanile plays a prominent role at Iowa State; for decades the building that houses the treasured carillon has been seen pictured on postcards, in students' wedding photos, and in promotional material for the university. Students frequently request special performances for weddings and other events held on campus. This rich history has found a new extension in the digital age. This past fall semester, all carillon concerts—weekday noon concerts and students' concerts—were made available on the Internet. With the addition of webcasting technology, every concert can be heard around the world. Besides the parents of carillon students, one special group of people listening in during webcasts is the ISU Carillon Alumni and Friends Society. The society is open for anyone to join, with a special focus on keeping past carillon students connected.

As my graduate studies draw to a close, I look forward to playing "The Bells of Iowa State" one last time on May 2, 2008; feel free to join me in my rite of passage by listening to the Iowa State Carillon webcast at <http://www.music.iastate.edu/carillon/>.