Semester carillon lessons end with kazoo concert

Six students took carillon lessons Spring 2020, before Covid-19 disrupted the semester, sending everyone home after spring break. The final concert was a Bells of Iowa State “duet” with Dr. Tam, where each student played a kazoo. Fun was had by all learning this new musical skill.

Continuing students:
- Cavannah Yap, senior in Genetics
- Macklin Derscheid, senior in Music
- Tyler Rolston, freshman in Mathematics
- Megan Goodhue, sophomore in Public Relations

First semester students:
- Lauren Roberts, senior in Industrial Design
- Carolyn Riedel, graduate student in Aerospace Engineering

Bells keep ringing during the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic sent students home in March. The first day after Spring break, campus was empty, but certainly not quiet at noon. The weekday carillon concerts kept going during the crisis. Two concerts were captured by ISU staff for the facebook page:

- Carillon bells ring across a (nearly) empty campus:
  https://www.facebook.com/IowaStateU/videos/247034683096908/

- Windy tunes on central campus:
  https://www.facebook.com/IowaStateU/videos/674908913291462/

Carillon students continued their studies through virtual seminars. Each student selected a carillon project and presented during the seminar. Several projects were related to the campanile-carillon model including an interactive display, a brochure, and campanile virtual tour. Other projects included carillon arrangement and computer analysis of the sound of carillon bells.

Summer weekday carillon concerts continue through July 10. Unfortunately, the summer carillon series was postponed to summer 2021.
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY C-HOP FESTIVAL 2019
BY: MAC DERSCHEID

Iowa State University Department of Music and Theatre hosted the C-HOP Festival, September 6-7, featuring Eastern European music for carillon, harpsichord, organ, and piano. Included in the Festival were lectures, master classes, and performances with guest artists Koen Cosaert (carillon), director of the Royal Carillon School “Jef Denyn” in Mechelen, Belgium, Michael Elsbernd (organ), director of Worship and Music at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Des Moines, Iowa, and Logan Skelton (piano), Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Piano at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The Festival kicked off with an organ master class by Michael Elsbernd, and a lecture-recital by ISU music faculty, Miriam Zach on Eastern European organ and harpsichord music by women composers. Before the opening concert on Friday evening, a pre-concert featuring ISU piano and instrumental students was held in the Music Hall lobby. Festival attendees were serenaded with a love song sung in Russian, and piano music by Russian composer Nikolai Kapustin.

The Festival opening concert began with carillon performances livestreamed into the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall. Program included carillon arrangements of Anatol Liadov’s piano music, and the premiere of the winning composition of the ISU Carillon Composition Competition 2019. This biennial competition, sponsored by the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation at Iowa State University, is held to encourage young composers under age 35 to write original compositions for carillon. This year’s winning composition is “dance beneath the moon”, a carillon duet by Joey Brink from Chicago. Honorary mention is “Bell Chant” by Naoko Tsujita from Toronto, Canada. The winning composition was performed by Koen Cosaert and Tin-Shi Tam, Iowa State’s university carillonneur and Cownie Professor of Music. The concert continued with performances by ISU keyboard faculty and students on stage. The evening concluded with a dazzling performance of Sergei Rachmaninoff’s Suite No. 2 for two pianos performed by ISU piano professor, Mei-Hsuan Huang and her student Michael Banwarth.

The Festival resumed at 9:30 am on Saturday with a piano master class by Logan Skelton. Next event was a lecture “From Svon to Carillon – Three Centuries of Bell Culture in Russia”. Along with historical photos and rare audio and video footages, Koen Cosaert discussed the traditional chiming of the Orthodox Church in Russia and the development of carillons in Saint-Petersburg. After the carillon lecture, Logan Skelton presented a lecture-recital “The Brotherhood of Peoples – Folk Styles in the Piano Music of Béla Bartók”. He performed a selection of Bartók’s piano music and discussed the influence of folk elements in those pieces with recorded excerpts of Hungarian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Bulgarian, Arabic, and Serbo-Croatian folk music.

The afternoon started with a carillon recital by Koen Cosaert. Iowa State central campus was graced by the music of Tchaikovsky, Belgian carillon music, and a refined performance of Preludium in d by Jef Denyn. After touring the campanile, Festival attendees walked back to the Music Building for the 31st Annual Organists of Iowa concert performed by Michael Elsbernd. This annual series, sponsored by the Sukup Family of Sheffield, Iowa, featured Iowa organists on the three-manual Brombaugh organ. The many colorful sounds of the organ were showcased in this concert of Eastern European organ music. The festival concluded with a program of Logan Skelton’s artful piano performance including his arrangement of Bartók’s Concerto for Orchestra.

C-HOP Festival had the perfect combination of music and education, and a little something new for everyone, a fantastic opportunity to learn about Carillon – Harpsichord, Organ and Piano.