



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY SOCIETY OF CARILLON ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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CURRENT STUDENT REFLECTION: JOSH HELLYER

Hello, carillon alumni! My name is Josh Hellyer, and I'm a sophomore in Community and Regional Planning and French at Iowa State. But more importantly, I am a carillon student with Dr. Tam. I'm writing this article on the day before my first solo noon recital, after completing my second semester of carillon lessons. I'm definitely nervous, but also excited to play the carillon for such a large audience. I'll be playing "Two Estudios for Guitar" by Fernando Sor, "Herinneringen aan J.S. Bach" by Willem Créman, "Toccata No. 10" by Johan Franco, and two Christmas carols: an arrangement of Leontovich's "Carol of the

Bells" and a Barnes arrangement of "We Wish You A Merry Christmas."

I started taking lessons almost a year ago. I had tried to get into piano lessons, having played for 11 years, but there wasn't enough space. So I tried to think of a way to continue studying music, and one day, as I was sitting in my dorm room listening to the noon recital, it hit me: someone has to be playing the bells. I knew nothing about the carillon, so I did some Internet research. As I researched, I also found Dr. Tam's carillon lessons, MUS 118E. I thought learning to play the carillon



would be such an interesting and unique experience, so I emailed her and enrolled for spring semester.

I started out playing simple warm-ups and technique exercises, just as everyone has to do in the beginning.

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"THE CAMPANILE IS PLAYING A TUNE TO BAD ROMANCE! HAHA"

AN ISU STUDENTS FACEBOOK STATUS ON FRIDAY REQUEST DAY WHEN UNIVERSITY CARILLOUER DR. TAM PLAYED *BAD ROMANCE* BY LADY GAGA.

Join our Facebook group: Iowa State University Society of Carillon Alumni and Friends.

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ENJOY THE NOON CONCERTS EVERY WEEKDAY 11:50-12:10 ON THE WEB

<http://www.music.iastate.edu/feeds/carillon/>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, April 16th

The Society Board is very excited to announce the next society event will be held in conjunction with VEISHEA 2011.

FRIDAY REQUESTS CAUSE A CAMPUS SENSATION

How does one connect the stately ISU Campanile with today's students? By playing pop music on an instrument normally used to play classical music of course. In the process, Dr. Tam became a "minor overnight sensation."

Dr. Tam has always taken music by requests on Fridays. Not very many requests were ever submitted. That is, until this semester, when everyone on campus heard the now famous carillon rendition of *Bad Romance* by Lady Gaga, played on August 27th by request.

Brad Riley, a senior at ISU, started a Facebook group to encourage his friends to lobby Dr. Tam to play the song and the ISU Daily set up a camera to record the event, which was posted on YouTube. Within minutes of the performance, Twitter and Facebook had links and comments flying. Within 1 week, the video had been viewed over 400,000 times. View the video at

www.youtube.com and search for Iowa State University Carillon.

Since then Dr. Tam has received many requests, playing Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*, Nirvana's *Smells Like Teen Spirit*, Led Zeppelin's *Stairway to Heaven* and the Harry Potter theme song. Even more impressive, the students stand out on central campus waiting to hear if their song is played – high-fiving and cheering each other if it is.

Dr. Tam never expected the buzz that surrounded her performance, but as she says: "It's such a public instrument, so it belongs to the community. So it's got to connect to them."



STUDENT REFLECTION CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

I remember being pretty intimidated by the carillon when I first saw it. There were foot pedals, the keys were heavy, and all of Iowa State's 26,000 students (and half of Ames too) could hear me if I played a wrong note. But I kept practicing, and signed up for another semester.

This semester, I started playing basic songs, and even started arranging my own music for my final project,

which I hope to play in a recital next semester. It has been quite a bit of work, between practicing and spending hours on Finale writing up sheet music, but I am happy to be able to learn to play such a fascinating instrument. When I came to Iowa State, I never thought I would be up in the Campanile playing a carillon recital for all of campus to hear. Tomorrow, I will be. And now, I'm off to the Campanile to practice. Happy holidays, and wish me luck!

ISU SOCIETY OF CARILLON ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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EXCERPTS FROM THE PAST

As I was thinking about Dr. Tam playing pop music on the carillon, I realized that even the current classical songs that we find "normal" today, were frowned upon in the 1930s.

Dr. Schroeder's History of the Stanton Memorial Carillon, 1957 is 8 pages long. I would like to share some sections from this history that show how the music selections have changed over time.



University Carillon-
neur (1931-1969)
Dr. Ira Schroeder

The carillon music, especially the hymns played every morning as students are going to class, has a very interesting history. Only nine student

were here that first day (of classes in 1868). Before their first class convened this small body of students and their instructors gathered together to offer prayers of thanksgiving. This prayer service continued daily for many years.

(Stanton) first had the idea of giving the college a large bell to be rung at the hour that the daily chapel took place. At the time, interest in the daily chapel services before the first classes of the day was not as popular as in the old days. It was hoped that the tolling of a large bell every morning would set a devotional attitude on the campus.

This thought grew until Stanton

decided to purchase and have installed a chime of ten bells. It was decided that only hymns should be played in the morning. This was to take the place of the daily chapel services which were discontinued soon after this.

There were very few hymn tunes that could be played on the original ten bells without leaving out a note or two here and there or substituting another which was the custom. In spite of muffled protests this practice continued thirty years until the carillon of three octaves was installed.

For a short time, nearly two years, the carillon was played by college students. Dr. R. M. Hughes, then president, was unhappy with the result. They had no practice instrument and he refused to spend any money for one. A practice instrument was delivered to Iowa State in the fall of 1930 with funds from the Stanton Estate.

I was hired by the college as the first professional carillonneur in 1931 and arrived on the campus in August of that year. At the time the college had a miscellaneous budget and it was from this that I was paid fifty dollars per month for playing from seven forty-five to eight in the mornings and five forty-five to six in the evenings.

It appears that either they were unhappy with me, my playing or were wanting to economize because there was much ado about an automatic player which Dr. Hughes was interested in. The "thing" as

Mr. Breese called it proved to be very expensive and the Stanton heirs were not interested. Some of the correspondence with Taylor's (the bell foundry) indicate that college authorities were not in favor of oiling the carillon and I insisted that this be done. I also insisted that heavy screening be installed to keep out the birds. Furthermore I insisted on a shower. I presume that all this mounted to more than they could cope with and perhaps thought that demands would continue as long as I was around. However, Taylors set them right about all these demands. They were all complied with in due time.

In the thirties the Iowa State listeners found it quite difficult making the transition musically from a ten bell chime to a carillon. The "Old Guard" was a little reluctant to accept the carillon. They were accustomed to one bell at a time and found it very difficult to accept carillon music especially having the good old stately hymns tampered with in the form of variations or chorale preludes. As time has passed carillon music became more and more acceptable until it has become significantly a part of the life of Iowa State College. Music from the carillon holds a nostalgic interest among alumnae.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DEB SCHIEL-LARSON

THE BELLS OF IOWA STATE RING WITH A BRITISH ACCENT

This edition of the Alumni Spotlight features Deb Schiel-Larson. Deb played in the early 80's with Dr. von Grabow. She included a newspaper clipping from her visit to England.

Did you know that the Bells of Iowa State were born in England and immigrated to Ames? It's a rich heritage and history.

Loughborough (pronounced "luff-burra"), England is a city of over 55,000 population that documents its history all the way back to 1086. Loughborough is also the home of the Taylor Bell Foundry, where the Taylor family began casting bells in 1784. In 1896, the Taylor family researched and perfected the art of bell tuning, where metal was carefully removed from the inside of a cast bell. Tuned bells from several pounds up to 45,000 pounds were possible.

The largest bell in Great Britain, called the "Great Paul" is from Loughborough. This immense bell is at St. Paul's Cathedral in London and it weighs 37,483 pounds.

The first ten bells of the ISU carillon were installed in memory of Margaret Price MacDonald Stanton in 1899. They were the first scientifically tuned bells to be exported by John Taylor & Company, Loughborough, England. Additional bells were purchased from the Taylor Foundry in 1929, 1956 and 1967 for a total of 50 bells in the magnificent instrument at Iowa State.

You can find Taylor bells in Loughborough too. The Taylor Foundry has a tower with 18 historic bells. You will also find the Loughborough Carillon and War Memorial in a beautiful city space called Queens Park.

The Loughborough Carillon is called the "first grand Carillon in Britain". The historic tower supports 47 bells and was opened in 1923. The Loughborough carillon was conceived and built as a war memorial.

Inscriptions on the bells honor the memory of the 480 men of Loughborough who gave their lives in WWI. Bronze tablets on the tower itself honor soldiers who gave their lives in both World Wars and conflicts which followed.

As a carillon student of Dr. Von Grabow at Iowa State, I was very fortunate to be invited to play a senior recital on the Loughborough carillon in 1981. Visiting the Foundry, standing in the rich history of the place, seeing the park and the memorial, climbing to play the historic bells in the Loughborough tower – it was a humbling experience. Mr. Alan Berry and his staff at the Taylor Foundry were generous and welcoming. It's a memory I treasure.

Bells from the Taylor Foundry can be found all over the world. The Bok Singing Tower in Lake Wales, Florida has Taylor bells. The carillon in Canberra, Australia was cast at the Taylor Foundry too.

If you find yourself in England, please don't hesitate to visit Loughborough and the Taylor Foundry. After that experience, the Bells of Iowa State will ring even more richly in your heart and memory.

U.S. carillonneur to give recital

A MEMBER of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America, Miss Debra Schiel, is to give a recital on Loughborough War Memorial Carillon tomorrow (Saturday).

Miss Schiel is a graduate of Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa, an institution which has links with Loughborough through Taylor's bell foundry. And it is Mr. Alan Berry, the general manager of Taylor's, who has arranged Miss Schiel's visit and recital.

He met her last year at a Guild of Carillonneurs Congress at Ames, and although she has been to England before, she has not played the Loughborough carillon. But she is no stranger to bells made by the foundry.

In 1899 it supplied a chime of 10 bells to the Iowa State

College at Ames. In 1929 this was augmented by a further 26 bells and in 1956 by another 13. In 1963 Ames received its final bell from Taylor's and it now has an installation of a carillon of 50 bells.

Miss Schiel came to England two years ago while a student of Iowa State University. She stayed in Wales and, being interested in carillons, was advised to visit Loughborough, which she promptly did. It was on this occasion that she first met Mr. Berry.

Her recital has been arranged by Mr. Berry and Mr. Peter Shepherd, the Borough Carillonneur. She will then be going to Scotland to pursue further studies.

Miss Schiel graduated from Iowa University this spring with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree. She studied carillon at the university for four years under Dr. Richard von Grabow, the University carillonneur.

She has also been a member of the University Cyclone Football Marching Band and the Iowa State Concert Band. She is a national student affiliate member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. She enjoys writing poetry and water-colour painting as hobbies.

She will play a complete programme in Loughborough on Saturday, starting at 7 p.m. This will include North American folk songs, folk songs from the British Isles and hymn tunes.

Miss Schiel is one of a number of guest recitalists due to play at the carillon this year.

