

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## SOCIETY OF CARILLON ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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### 4 STUDENTS ENJOY CARILLON LESSONS

Another semester has come and gone quickly. Four students took lessons with Dr. Tam this semester. Three of the students were returning carillon students. They worked on trios **this semester** — playing three at the final concert: *Game of Thrones*, *Lady Gaga Fugue*, and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*.

Nathaniel said that he had a lot of fun practicing and performing the trios with Erin and Cayla. "It's a challenge to coordinate the intricate melodies as we dodge in and out of each others' way" **said Nathaniel**.

As for Cayla, "The trio has been really fun for me to be involved with and being able to play with such great players as Nathan and Erin. They really had patience with me as I struggled in a lot of parts for the song."

Erin finished the concert with *Bells of Iowa State*, as this was her final semester at ISU.

Fall semester students included:

- **Johnathan** Germick, freshman in Mechanical Engineering, taking lessons for the first time.
- Nathaniel Han, senior in Computer Science
- Erin Reger, graduating senior in Accounting
- Cayla Cunningham, junior in Elementary Education



L-R: Cayla, Nathaniel, Erin



### DID YOU KNOW?

Dr. Tam continues to work on innovative ways to share carillon music.

During the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation Fall Conference Call she revealed that the ISU technicians are working on ways to connect the carillon to other artists off campus. More to come!

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

[www.music.iastate.edu/carillon/webcast/](http://www.music.iastate.edu/carillon/webcast/)

## SUMMER CARILLON CONCERT SERIES



The Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation sponsored another set of summer carillon concerts.

The **first concert** was on June 10th with Eddy Marien from Mechelen, Belgium performing on a beautiful summer evening.

The **second concert** on July 8th featured Andree-Anne Doane from Montreal, Canada.

The **third concert** was on August 5th. A crowd of carillon faithful attended Lynnette Geary's concert who is from Waco, Texas.

The **final concert** was on September 2nd with guest carillonneur Robin Austin from Springfield, Illinois. It was a perfect evening for the last concert, even if the sun did set on the concert. This was the most well attended concert of the summer.



Andree-Anne Doane

Lynnette Geary

It's interesting to see how people enjoy the concert. Some brought a picnic supper or homework along. Other recorded the music on their iPhone. Most people sat in lawn chairs, while a few ventured up to watch the live video feed of the carillonneur performing upstairs.



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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: CHARLES SUKUP

Charles Sukup started taking Carillon lessons in 1973. He was an Ag Engineering major and in the Marching Band and also taking organ lessons. He was fascinated by the carillon and talked with Dr. von Grabow about taking lessons. Charles' organ teacher actually told Dr. von Grabow not to allow him to take lessons. The organ teacher was always reminding Charles that he shouldn't be pounding on the organ keys, it should just be a light touch. The teacher was worried that "pounding" on the carillon would make his organ technique even worse. However, Charles found it as an outlet – a place where he was *allowed* to pound away. Just as everyone else remembers, he developed blisters and then callouses.

Charles didn't enjoy practicing on the practice keyboard – he found it a "depressing practice on a poor substitute – those xylophone bars!" Practice was not allowed until 10:00 pm in the evening.

Friendships seem to abound whenever people discuss carillon lessons. Charles and his good friend Ed Arp lived on the same dorm floor and both took carillon lessons,

playing VEISHEA concerts and duets together. Today, Ed and Charles continue to stay in touch.

In true Iowa State fashion, Charles' most interesting experience involves a cyclone and the carillon. Dr. Art Swift, head of the Music Department called Charles out of the blue one day. He said President Park's wife Mrs. Parks had woken up in the middle of the night and thought, wouldn't it be grand to have the carillon play during their daughter's wedding reception? Dr. von Grabow was out of town, so he called Charles. Charles and his parents came down to Ames. It was a stormy day. Charles was up in the campanile getting ready when the tornado sirens went off in Ames. He kept on playing until he heard someone stomping up the stairs. In walked his father announcing in no uncertain terms that they needed to leave to seek shelter. A tornado did hit west of town that day and Charles never heard how the Park's reception went, as they had fled the scene.



## CAMPANILE/CARILLON IN THE NEWS

There were multiple News Service pictures, videos and articles about the Carillon this fall. See them here:



Postcard from Campus: Carillon Concert:  
<http://www.news.iastate.edu/video/view/id/eSo1UYMWYjs>

Performing maintenance on the Campanile Bells:

<http://www.news.iastate.edu/video/view/id/0TabHVwGRA4>



Pictures inside the Stanton Memorial Carillon:  
<https://www.facebook.com/IowaStateU>.  
 Click on Photos —> Albums —> Inside the Stanton Memorial Carillon.

Follow us on Twitter. Use #isucarillonplaylist if you recognize a song.

ISU Carillon @isucarillon · Dec 12  
 Like the Christmas music this week? "Carol of the Bells" #isucarillonplaylist

ISU Carillon @isucarillon · Oct 31  
 Continuing Halloween. Phantom of the Opera. #isucarillonplaylist

ISU Carillon @isucarillon · Oct 31  
 Getting in the Halloween mood. "Adams Family" #isucarillonplaylist

ISU Carillon @isucarillon · Oct 29  
 Frozen "Let It Go" #isucarillonplaylist

ISU Carillon retweeted Iowa StateU @IowaStateU · Oct 21  
 Listen in ... RT @RomiRiv: I got one less problem without ya... #iowastate #isucampanile #campus #music instagram.com/p/uYxi\_oQ3ID/

ISU Carillon @isucarillon · Oct 22  
 YEPI @timdufresne: @isucarillon Okay, I think I got this one: Katy Perry's "Dark Horse" #isucarillonplaylist

## CARILLON FINAL PROJECT: A LOOK BACK ON 3 1/2 YEARS

BY ERIN REGER

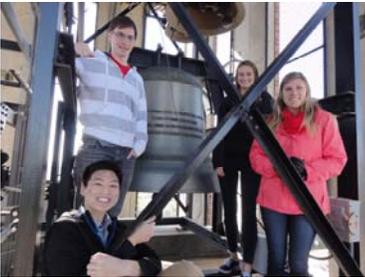


Final Concert

### Final Carillon Reflection

On Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, I performed in my very last carillon concert. After 3.5 years of playing, it was very surreal that it was all over. Afterward, I decided to reflect on my time playing the carillon, and I thought about some of my favorite and most memorable moments. The following are just a few that stuck out to me.

**My first concert:** I'll never forget playing my very first concert in front of Arie Abbenes, a respected carillonneur from the Netherlands. He listened to me play and then gave a master class. At the time, I had been playing carillon for less than a month! I was extremely nervous, but I learned a lot and it felt good to get the first concert out of the way.



Fall 2014 Field Trip

### All of the field trips:

I had the opportunity to go on three different field trips to visit neighboring carillons during my time taking lessons. My freshman year we got to go to the carillon in the Plummer Building in Rochester, MN. My

sophomore year, we visited carillons in St. Paul, MN and Minneapolis, MN. This past fall we traveled to Nebraska and saw the carillon at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and a carillon at a church in Lincoln. Seeing all of the different carillons was a great learning experience for me. Not only did I get to experience playing on 5 different carillons, I now know that Iowa State has the best carillon in the Midwest (in my biased opinion, of course).

**Lessons:** I always enjoyed my lessons with Dr. Tam. She always encouraged me to feel the music instead of just playing it—something that did not come natural to me. Even when I was feeling nervous or worried about my performance, she always was very positive and encouraging. I will definitely miss seeing her every week!



Fall 2014 Field Trip

**Final concerts:** For my last two concerts, I was able to play three trios with two other carillon students. I had played in a trio my sophomore year, but the amount of time the three of us spent on this year's pieces was much larger, and the pieces were more difficult. The three trios are in my top five favorite pieces I have ever played. Though they were difficult, learning them with two other people and figuring out how to play as if we were one person was a fun experience. We all had a great time practicing, and really figured out how to listen to each other and play as a group. It was also nice to have two other people around to take some of the pressure!

Overall, my carillon experience was one I will never forget. I now have a unique musical skill and better understanding of music. Even though I will miss the carillon, I am thankful that I had the opportunity to play. I hope that I will still have opportunities to play the carillon in the future!



Fall 2014 Field Trip

## FROM AMY BRANDAU: WEB CAM CONTINUES TO BE APPRECIATED

Not that long ago, admirers of the ISU Carillon could only listen while on campus. Today with iPhones, Skype, and live web casting, carillon concerts can reach a much broader audience. I received an email from a colleague on campus who had visited with a first semester international student this fall. The student shared a story of how his GRANDPA from Ecuador loves the ISU carillon, but not so much the pop songs on the carillon:

One of my students is a new international student from Ecuador. He said that he visited campus (as a prospective student) with his entire family in April. His grandpa was also with him. He said that Grandpa absolutely fell in love with the Campanile and the carillon. Grandpa went around and around taking picture after picture of it. He was so astonished. My student said that he skyped with his grandpa once he got here for school this fall, so his grandpa could hear the carillon playing again. He said, “Unfortunately, it



Student Concert as seen on-line.

was a Lady Gaga song, so my grandpa didn’t know it.” He said that Grandpa dreamed that it would be playing Frank Sinatra’s “My Way.”

## STUDENT: JOHNATHAN GERMICK

I had no idea that an instrument like the Carillon existed until I came to Iowa State. At the beginning of the year, I went to a freshman retreat where I met Cayla Cunningham and she mentioned that she plays the instrument inside the campanile, even with less experience than most carillon students. So immediately, I emailed Dr. Tam to see what I had to do to play the carillon. I never knew I could have so much fun learning a new instrument.

After just a few weeks of playing the Carillon, Dr. Tam took me to the very top of the campanile and I got the chance to see the bells up close. The repairman was there so I got to ask plenty of questions. Being a Mechanical Engineer, I was very interested.

In addition, my favorite thing about playing the Carillon is

that for the most part I get to play for non-musicians. So when I start playing the Carillon there is no pressure because I know the people listening are grateful just to hear music. It doesn’t have to be perfect or fancy. When playing the Carillon I am truly delighted to play for people and not myself.

I am so grateful to be given the opportunity to play the Carillon, and I hope I can continue to balance my school work with what I really enjoy.



## ISU SOCIETY OF CARILLON ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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