STUDENT CARILLON CONCERTS ON MOBILE CARILLON

Seven students took carillon lessons Fall 2020, with enhanced safety measures for covid-19. Students performed two concerts—both held on the model carillon in the Sukup Atrium.

Students:
- Cavannah Yap, senior in Genetics
- Macklin Derscheid, senior in Music
- Megan Goodhue, junior in Public Relations
- Ola Carnahan, senior in Aerospace Engineering
- Carolyn Riedel, graduate student in Aerospace Engineering
- Rebekah Veldboom, freshman in Environmental Science, first semester
- Brian Kempa, graduate student in Aerospace Engineering, first semester

STUDENT REFLECTS ON PLAYING

By: Megan Goodhue

This is my second year taking carillon lessons at Iowa State. It’s really nice having the basics down and being able to work on more fun and challenging songs. We had a concert earlier this semester where we played on the model carillon. This was my first time playing on the model. It was very interesting playing with no foot pedals and only two octaves. The sound from the bells was very loud and sustained. Because of this, we had to wear earplugs. It was such an honor to play on the model after so much work had been put into it. This year, the hardest part has been learning songs at a faster pace. Many of my songs use a variety of chords and have a quicker tempo. I have been very challenged as a carillon player but have learned so much. Dr. Tam has been such an amazing and supportive teacher, which is one of the reasons I love taking lessons. I am so grateful to have taken lessons this year given the circumstances and continue to do so next year.

NEW HOME

The mobile carillon was completed and delivered to the ISU Sukup Atrium in the Biorenewables Complex on July 15th. Upon the delivery, a listening session was held for a panel of ISU music faculty.

MODEL UPDATE

This semester ME 415 students worked to refine the safety of the setting up of the model and a system for transportation. Due to covid-19, fabrication and assembly testing was not allowed. The project will continue next spring.

See pg 3 for more details
STUDENT REFLECTIONS ON PLAYING
BY: REBEKAH VELDBOOM

Taking carillon lessons for the first time this semester was definitely a new experience for me, and certainly rewarding. Coming into this experience, I had skills in reading music and navigating a keyboard from concert band and piano. Accordingly, my investment in and passion for music made me interested when a friend, who plays carillon, recommended that I take lessons. Although I had never seen the instrument before or knew how it worked, I decided that it would be a positive learning experience and would introduce me to a unique part of Iowa State’s culture.

During my first lesson, it was intriguing to explore the carillon myself. I appreciated that the instrument shares some features with the piano, allowing me to apply what I already knew. Yet I enjoyed its distinctness as more of a percussion instrument, which provides the player with more control over how each note sounds. Several skills came as a challenge to me, however, and one of the most difficult was transitioning from the practice carillon to the one in the campanile. Not only do you have an immediate “audience” on central campus, but as a result of the mechanics in the bell tower, the weight of the keys vary with the size of the bells. Regardless, these challenges make me value the opportunity to play the bells and look forward to making more music.

REFLECTIONS ON WRITING AND PERFORMING “DON’T STOP BELIEVING” FOR CARILLON, VOICE AND BEATBOX
BY: CAVANNAH YAP

It all started with a random chat with my good friend, Aaron, who was fascinated by the carillon and suggested that we should do a collaboration together. Aaron is very into the 80s rock music. Hence, I had this idea of doing something different from the usual classical music that I always play and arranged this song, which would allow me to connect with more people. Because of the pandemic, we had to perform using the mini carillon. Dr. Tam suggested that this would be a great opportunity for me to perform with Aaron because we would be able to hear each other. The mobile carillon has only two octaves, which makes it extremely difficult to rearrange my original arrangement without sounding boring. Fortunately, I was able to get our best friend, Jim, who is a professional beatboxer, to join us to add more variety to the music. It was a rough journey to make this work. I spent many hours arranging the music and practicing with my team. We also had to get all the sound equipment on our own and set them up ourselves. Our microphone cable broke the day before the performance, and we had to drive all the way to Des Moines to get a new one. I am glad that the performance turned out well. It was a life-changing experience, being able to share the joy of making music with my best friends to the public.

CAMPA NILE KISS ICE CREAM

The Iowa State Creamery opened up this fall, after being closed since 1969. Contests were held to determine the ice cream flavors that would represent Iowa State University and the current Colleges on campus. One of the fourteen flavors is named Campanile Kiss—strawberry ice cream with strawberry cyclone swirls that honors the tradition of campaniling. To taste it—stop by the Creamery Store, which is open during the school year in 2953 Food Sciences Building (follow the signs).
ME 415 Reflection—Safety & Façade Panels  
By: Sofia Rodriguez-Parades

This past semester our team worked on redesigning and analyzing various aspects of the ISU carillon model for the ISU Department of Music and Theatre. We had a great time working on the project and coming up with ideas on how to make improvements. The main accomplishments of the team were the redesign of the attachment of the façade panels, so that the model would be safer to assemble. We also came up with a design for supporting rods that would ensure that the model could withstand 30 mph winds, when the model was assembled outside. A challenging aspect this semester was making changes so that the model could be assembled to different heights. Dr. Tam made this request while thinking about being able to assemble the model even at venues that could not accommodate the full height of the model. The team was able to meet Dr. Tam’s request, and provide a design that could be assembled to three different heights. Overall, the team appreciated the opportunity to grow as engineers through the challenges brought not only with the project but also the changes to the class due to the pandemic. We look forward to the progress that will be made by the next team and to eventually seeing the finished product.

ME 415 Reflection—Transportation  
By: Kaelyn Swetala

My team had a bit of a tricky goal this semester, primarily due to the coronavirus. We were in charge of figuring out how to transport the carillon sections easily and safely. We weren’t given an explicit budget, but we were told to keep costs as low as possible. Ultimately, we decided a motorized vehicle would be the safest way to transport the carillon sections, instead of just pushing it by hand. Though this will be more expensive, we know it will be safer, which is paramount. We created the design for the storage boxes for the façade pieces as well as a packing procedure for all of the parts involved with the carillon. It was decided that a 20+ foot box truck would be sufficient to store all the sections and that they will be able to be loaded using a lift gate. Furthermore, we also designed a trailer system to hook up to a motorized dolly, if that ends up being the option that is pursued. The options for ground transportation include forklifts, pallet jacks, and either a pre-made motorized dolly or a self-designed and manufactured one. Since we couldn’t do any testing or building, we weren’t able to fully commit to one idea or another. We did, however, organize all our research in our documentation and this will allow the next group to have a solid base to work from. As a team, I know we were all a little disappointed that we couldn’t finish the transportation plan within this timeframe. We would’ve liked to have the full plan fleshed out and wrapped with a little bow. The scope of our project was very large, and we still made a lot of progress, so we are proud of our results. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue the legacy of previous teams and also contribute to something that spreads the joy of our school pride. This semester was full of learning and we’re all glad we could be a part of it.

Model Playing Bench

Does the model playing bench look familiar? It was modeled off of the stone bench that sits nearby the Campanile on campus. It was made by a university carpenter from an oak tree that fell near the campanile during a storm many years earlier. Another bench is being designed by the ME 415 class.