Carillon Recital

Wesley Arai

Sunday, November 7, 2021 • 2:00 p.m. • Storke Tower

program

1. Preludio V
   Sicilienne Ronde
   Matthias van den Gheyn (1721-1785)
   John Gouwens (b. 1957)

2. Winter from The Four Seasons
   1. Allegro non molto
   2. Largo
   3. Allegro
   Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)
   arr. Arie Abbenes

3. Intrada col Aria
   Preludio IX
   John Courter (1941-2010)
   Matthias van den Gheyn

4. Selections from Beauty and the Beast
   Belle
   Gaston
   Something There
   Be Our Guest
   Beauty and the Beast
   Alan Menken (b. 1949)
   arr. Frank Steijns

Each section will be announced by the striking of one or more bells

Today’s performance will be streamed live from the Department of Music’s YouTube channel!
To watch the recitalist perform, please visit https://youtu.be/NQ8RO-iHhMw

It is recommended that you turn off your phone’s sound if listening to the carillon live.

Welcome to Storke Tower and its Carillon!

The 61-bell UCSB carillon was dedicated in 1969. It was a gift of Thomas Storke, then publisher of the Santa Barbara News-Press. The instrument consists of bells cast by the Dutch bell foundry Petit & Fritsen, ranging in weight from about 13 pounds to 2.5 tons. Our instrument is one of six carillons in California, with the others being at UC Berkeley, UC Riverside, Stanford University, Christ Cathedral (formerly the Crystal Cathedral) in Garden Grove, and Trinity Cathedral in San Jose. There are over 650 carillons in the world and over 180 in North America.

Please join us for our upcoming carillon recitals:
Sunday, November 21, 2021 at 10:00am – UCSB Carillon Studio Student Recital
Sunday, January 23, 2022 at 2:00pm – Wesley Arai, University Carillonist
Program Notes

Matthias van den Gheyn was a Flemish composer who is best known for his carillon and organ compositions. **Preludio V** and **Preludio IX** belong to a set of eleven preludes, which are among the few surviving original works for the carillon from the late 18th century and are still performed frequently today due to their musicality and technical virtuosity. In celebration of the composer’s 300th birthday, all eleven of his preludes are being performed on the Storke Tower carillon between 2020 and 2022.

**Sicilienne Ronde** was written in memory of Ronald Barnes, who was a major force in establishing an American approach to carillon performance, composing, and arranging. **Sicilienne Ronde** features flowing, lyrical melodies and sudden changes of key, which are common to Barnes’ compositions.

**Winter** from Vivaldi’s *The Four Seasons* was originally composed as a violin concerto. The music is accompanied by a sonnet (reproduced below), which illustrates the characteristics of winter that the music is meant to evoke. Today, the music from *Winter* is frequently heard in TV commercials and in movies.

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Allegro non molto
To tremble from cold in the icy snow, in the harsh breath of a horrid wind;
To run, stamping one’s feet every moment, our teeth chattering in the extreme cold

Largo
Before the fire to pass peaceful, contented days while the rain outside pours down.

Allegro
We tread the icy path slowly and cautiously, for fear of tripping and falling.
Then turn abruptly, slip, crash on the ground and, rising, hasten across the ice lest it cracks up.
We feel the chill north winds course through the home despite the locked and bolted doors...
this is winter, which nonetheless brings its own delights.
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**Intrada col Aria** consists of a majestic fanfare-like introduction, followed by a delicate aria. The fanfare returns to close out the piece.

Today’s recital closes with selections from the 1991 animated film (and 2017 live-action movie) *Beauty and the Beast*. The animated film was based on an 18th century French fairy tale and won Academy Awards for Best Original Score and Best Original Song (for the title song).

About the Artist

**Wesley Arai** was appointed Lecturer and University Carillonist at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2018. He plays the 61-bell Storke Tower carillon regularly and teaches carillon to UCSB students. Arai studied carillon with Jeff Davis as an undergraduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, where he received BA degrees in Mathematics and Statistics. While earning an MA degree in Mathematics at the University of California, Los Angeles, he continued to play the carillon and subsequently passed the Carillonneur examination of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America. Arai then served as Associate Carillonneur at the University of California, Berkeley.

An active recitalist, Arai has performed extensively across the United States and abroad. Most recently, he has performed in Australia, gave the dedicatory recital for the carillon at the University of Washington, and performed at the Eighth Berkeley Carillon Festival, the 76th Congress of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America, and the Springfield International Carillon Festival. Arai is also an annual recitalist at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Spokane, Washington.

In addition to the carillon, Arai has studied piano, trombone, and voice, and has performed in a number of different concert bands, marching bands, jazz bands, orchestras, and choral groups. He enjoys arranging music and occasionally performs some of his own arrangements on the carillon. Arai’s day job is as an actuary.