Carillon Recital

**Wesley Arai**

Sunday, September 12, 2021 • 2:00 p.m. • Storke Tower

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**program**

1. **Remembering September 11, 2001**
   
   In Memoriam – September 11, 2001
   
   Lament and Alleluia
   
   John Courter (1941-2010)
   
   Alice Gomez (b. 1960)

2. **Concerto Grosso**
   
   I. Allegro
   
   II. Andante Espressivo
   
   III. Allegro Comodamente
   
   Ronald Barnes (1927-1997)

3. **Picardie (Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)**
   
   Slavonic Dance, Op. 72, No. 2
   
   Roy Hamlin Johnson (1929-2020)
   
   Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904)
   
   arr. John Courter

4. **Golden Sounds**
   
   Medley of Gershwin Songs
   
   Somebody Loves Me • Oh, Lady Be Good • The Man I Love • Fascinating Rhythm
   
   Emma Lou Diemer (b. 1927)
   
   John Courter

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

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*Today’s performance will be streamed live from the Department of Music’s Facebook page! To watch the recitalist perform, please “like” the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music on Facebook by visiting [https://www.facebook.com/UCSBDepartmentofMusic/](https://www.facebook.com/UCSBDepartmentofMusic/)*

*Once you have liked our page, please scroll down to the most recent post to view the live video. Please note that you must have a Facebook account to view the video.*

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

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**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.

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*Please join us for our Fall carillon recitals:*

- **Sunday, October 17 at 2:00pm** – Wesley Arai, University Carillonist
- **Sunday, November 7 at 2:00pm** – Wesley Arai, University Carillonist
- **Sunday, November 21 at 10:00am** – UCSB Carillon Studio Student Recital
Program Notes

John Courter wrote *In Memoriam – September 11, 2001* a few days after the tragic 9/11 terrorist attacks. The composition is dedicated to those whose lives were lost, reflecting the fact that bells have historically tolled for the dead and rang to comfort the grieving. *In Memoriam – September 11, 2001* is performed today in recognition of the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

Alice Gomez is a composer based in San Antonio whose diverse catalog of works includes over 20 pieces for carillon. *Lament and Alleluia* begins with a somber reflection, which gives way to a more lively, rhythmic section before finally settling down to a calming ending.

*Concerto Grosso* was written by Ronald Barnes, who played a major role in developing an American style of carillon composition. Barnes wrote countless original works, arrangements, and folk song settings for the carillon, which have become standards in the repertoire of carillonneurs in America and abroad. *Concerto Grosso* is written in a Baroque style, with three movements in contrasting dance-like forms.

*Picardie* ("Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence") is a hymn tune based on a French carol, set for carillon by Roy Hamlin Johnson, who composed many significant works for the carillon over a span of more than 50 years. Part of this piece is based in the octatonic scale, which is a series of alternating whole steps and half steps frequently used in music for the carillon due to its acoustic qualities.

Antonín Dvořák’s *Slavonic Dance, Op. 72, No. 2* is from a set of 16 pieces originally written for piano four hands and later rewritten for orchestra. The *Slavonic Dances* reflect stylistic elements commonly found in Bohemian folk music.

*Golden Sounds* was commissioned for the 50th anniversary of UCSB’s Storke Tower carillon in 2019. The piece incorporates three themes associated with UCSB: the university motto, *Fiat Lux* ("Let There Be Light"), now used as the hour chime; the university hymn *St. Anne* ("O God, Our Help in Ages Past"); and an excerpt from the university alma mater “Hail to California.” These musical references are mixed in with carillonistic gestures and flourishes that include percussive chords, a “fan-shaped” glissando-like motive (scale passages beginning on one pitch and gradually widening), a “feathering” in which there is a gradual accelerando or ritardando, repetitive patterns utilizing the various registers and dynamics of the instrument, and canonic treatment of the motives. Emma Lou Diemer was professor of theory and composition at UCSB from 1971 to 1991 and is Professor Emeritus. She has written many works for various instruments, ensembles, and electronic media, including pieces written specifically for the Storke Tower carillon.

John Courter’s *Medley of Gershwin Songs* features four songs written by George Gershwin in 1924. These songs have been covered by countless artists over the years, including Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, The Carpenters, Meat Loaf, and Jacob Collier.

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.