Carillon Recital

**Wesley Arai**

Sunday, November 6, 2022 • 2:00 p.m. • Storke Tower

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**Program**

1. **Slightly Spooky Music (for Halloween)**
   Suite No. 1 for Carillon (2002)  
   I. Fantasia Octatonica  
   II. Sonorities  
   III. Toccata Festevole  
   John Courter (1941-2010)

2. **Bird Songs**
   The Swan (from *The Carnival of the Animals*)  
   Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)  
   arr. Wendell Westcott  
   Blackbird  
   John Lennon (1940-1980) and Paul McCartney (b. 1942)

3. **Honoring Veterans Day**
   A Sacred Suite (2018)  
   Geert D’hollander (b. 1965)  
   I. Da Pacem Domine  
   II. Regina Coeli  
   III. Sancti Spiritus

4. **Written for the Storke Tower Carillon**
   Fantasy on FIAT LUX (2019)  
   Aaron David Miller (b. 1972)

5. **The Crown**
   The Prince of Denmark’s March  
   Jeremiah Clarke (1673-1707)  
   arr. Albert Gerken  
   Bohemian Rhapsody  
   Freddie Mercury (1946-1991)

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

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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 upcoming carillon recitals:

- Sunday, November 20, 2022 at 10:00am – UCSB Carillon Studio Student Recital
- Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 2:00pm – Wesley Arai, University Carillonist
Program Notes

The first movement of John Courter's **Suite No. 1 for Carillon** uses 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. The contemplative second movement features alternating minor sonorities a major third apart (for example, B minor and E-flat minor). The third movement brings the suite to an exciting finish, with a stately melody in the pedals accompanied by a rhythmic accompaniment in the higher bells.

**The Swan** is a movement from Camille Saint-Saëns' lighthearted work *The Carnival of the Animals*. The composer forbade the piece to be performed publicly during his lifetime because he worried that it would tarnish his reputation as a serious composer. **Blackbird** is from the Beatles' White Album, which was released in 1968. The original version of the song features Paul McCartney singing and playing the guitar, as a solo. The guitar accompaniment is said to have been inspired by one of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Suites for Lute* (BWV 996).

**A Sacred Suite** was written by Geert D'hollander, carillonneur at Bok Tower Gardens in Florida, for the dedication of the Peace Carillon in Leuven, Belgium, in 2018. The Peace Carillon is a replica of an instrument that was destroyed during World War I. The music is based on Gregorian chant melodies that would have been heard on carillons in the 16th century in the Low Countries of Europe. A Sacred Suite was simultaneously premiered on carillons around the world (including at UCSB) on November 11, 2018, the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I, in a show of musical solidarity and expression of peace.

**Fantasy on FIAT LUX** was commissioned for the 50th anniversary of UCSB's Storke Tower carillon in 2019. The fantasy is based on the university motto "FIAT LUX" translated as “Let There Be Light.” Each letter of the motto spells out a musical theme, which is used as the hour chime at UCSB and serves as the compositional material for the piece. This type of musical cryptogram has been used for centuries by composers such as Bach and Schumann and more contemporary composers like Bartok and Schoenberg. In the Fantasy on FIAT LUX, the university motto/hour chime melody is heard both as the main theme played on the largest bells, as well as the accompanying material found in the upper register of the instrument.

**The Prince of Denmark's March** (also known as the *Trumpet Voluntary*) was composed by Jeremiah Clarke, the first organist of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. The piece is popular as wedding music and has been quoted in songs by artists such as the Beatles and Sting. **Bohemian Rhapsody** was released on Queen's 1975 album *A Night at the Opera*. This unconventional song is widely considered one of the greatest rock songs of all time.

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 Carillonist at the University of California, Berkeley.

An active recitalist, Arai has performed extensively across the United States and abroad. He completed a recital tour of Europe in Summer 2022, performing in England, Ireland, France, and Spain, including the 20th Perpignan International Carillon Festival and the 29th Barcelona International Carillon Festival. Other recent performances include recitals in Australia, the dedicatory recital for the carillon at the University of Washington, and performances 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 and is a frequent recitalist at Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove, California.

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.