

Carillon Recital

Wesley Arai

Sunday, August 8, 2021 • 2:00 p.m. • Storke Tower

program

1. Preludio VII Matthias van den Gheyn (1721-1785)

2. **Spanish Folk Dances** arr. Ronald Barnes
Marizapalos
Villano
Canario

3. **New Music for the Carillon**
Fantasy on FIAT LUX (2019) Aaron David Miller (b. 1972)
Moto Perpetuo (2020) Geert D'hollander (b. 1965)

4. **From the Beatles' *White Album***
Blackbird John Lennon (1940-1980) and Paul McCartney (b. 1942)
While My Guitar Gently Weeps George Harrison (1943-2001)

5. **In Memory of John Knox (1932-2021)**
Valse-Caprice John Knox (1932-2021)
Variations on a Theme of John Knox Geert D'hollander
Theme • Arabesque • Vocalise • Bolero-Canción

6. Magnetic Rag Scott Joplin (1868-1917), arr. Wesley Arai

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 Facebook page! To watch the recitalist perform, please "like" the **UCSB Department of Music** on Facebook by visiting*

<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.

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 the next carillon recital:

Sunday, September 12 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 VII* belongs 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.

Marizapalos, *Villano*, and *Canario* are three anonymous Spanish songs, most likely composed in the 16th and 17th centuries. All three songs are probably most often heard today in renditions for guitar.

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.

Moto Perpetuo was awarded First Prize in the 2021 Composition Competition of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America (GCNA). The piece features a constant, driving pulse in its beginning and ending sections, with a contrasting flowing and expressive section in the middle.

Blackbird and *While My Guitar Gently Weeps* are from the Beatles' White Album, which was released in 1968. The original version of *Blackbird* features Paul McCartney singing and playing the guitar, as a solo. The song's guitar accompaniment is said to have been inspired by one of Johann Sebastian Bach's Suites for Lute (BWV 996).

John Knox was a very prolific composer for the carillon, and his music was the focus of the 2014 Congress of the GCNA held at the University of Denver. His *Valse-Caprice* (1991) begins and ends with a fast, swaying figure in the high bells accompanied by a simple, stately melody in the low bells. The more calm, expressive middle section includes the theme upon which Geert D'hollander's piece *Variations on a Theme of John Knox* (2014) is based. D'hollander's composition includes variations on this theme in three different styles: a flowing Arabesque, an expressive Vocalise (in the style of Sergei Rachmaninoff), and finally a rousing Latin-inspired Bolero-Canción.

Magnetic Rag (1914) by Scott Joplin is the last rag that was published during Joplin's lifetime. It breaks from the traditional ragtime form and was considered progressive in its time. For example, the opening melody returns at the end of the piece, which is rare among Joplin's rags. The song covers a wide range of moods, including melancholy and dark ones, perhaps reflecting the struggles Joplin was experiencing at the end of his life due to his declining health. However, this rag also has plenty of joyous and lighthearted moments throughout.

About the Artist

Wesley Arai was appointed Lecturer and University Carillonneur 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.