UR Carillon Society alumni participate in 2023 GCNA Congress, Cohasset, Massachusetts.

Rochester cohort: left to right, Alex Johnson, Janet Tebbel, Charles Zettek, Judy Zettek, Kayla Gunderson, Tiffany Ng, Swenny Xue attended the 2023 Congress of Guild of Carillonneurs of North America, a professional guild encouraging high standards of carillon performance, music study, and historical understanding. Janet Tebbel was elected to the GCNA Board. Alex and Kayla played in concerts. Dr. Tiffany Ng (UM organ chairmanship, Eastman) provided a presentation on a century of contributions of women to North American carillon. More information: www.CarillonWomen.org.

Photo credit: GCNA owner, Dan Busler Photography.
Carillon student concerts weekly Sundays 5pm throughout the academic year.

Learn about us:  https://www.sas.rochester.edu/mur/hopeman-memorial-carillon/

Listen to us:  https://www.facebook.com/HopemanCarillon/

Students train and work together as a team to develop and perform music.

During the 2023-2024 year Seniors Molly Killian, Kayla Gunderson, Valerie Battista, and Vanessa Wish each set and completed a goal to provide their own Senior solo carillon concert and play for their graduation.

Highlights of the year’s concerts included a Taylor Swift concert collection arranged and played by Molly Killian and Harvest Aquino, duet “Venus, the Bringer of Peace” from Holst’s Planets played by Makayla Press and Harvest Aquino, “Passacaglia” by Lerinckx played by Kayla Gunderson, and the Rochester Carillon Composition Award winning original composition “Winter Dirge and Festival” by William Jae, second place “Os justi” by Bruckner, arranged and performed by Valerie Battista.

Four students passed their mentor auditions and will take up responsibilities as hosting and supporting new students come Fall 2023: Makayla Press, Harvest Aquino, Darron King, and Johanna Murphy.

Carillon Alumni news:
Claire Janezic ‘22 has completed a year of study in Mechelen, Belgium at the Royal Carillon School “Jef Denyn” under the Belgian American Educational Foundation Fellowship. She will be on concert tour throughout Europe over the summer 2023.

Alex Johnson ‘18 has taken the position as carillonneur at the prestigious Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Carillon, University of Chicago.
50TH ANNIVERSARY BELLS— FOR YOU!

Dear Bellmen Society, UR Carillon Society members, and donors to Hopeman Carillon Fund, THANK YOU.

We hope this letter finds you well and that the year so far has been treating you wonderfully. We wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to the University of Rochester Carillon Society.

Your contributions in attention and resources have been instrumental in fostering a vibrant and thriving carillon program at our university. We are deeply grateful for the time, energy, and passion that you have invested in this program. We daily use the adjustable bench, the Spurrier refurbished practice carillon, and updated tower sound equipment to record, listen, and observe ourselves playing. Without your involvement, we know that our carillon program would not be what it is today.

As a token of our appreciation, we would like to invite you to exciting events that we have planned for this 2023 year.

First, we invite you to attend our July Concert Series, an excellent opportunity where you can enjoy the beautiful melodies of our carillon in the warm summer air every Wednesday at 6:30pm throughout July. There will also be a weekly tour by Melissa Mead at 5:45pm meeting in Eastman Quadrangle to learn about the significance of the bells to the campus. Performers include rising international stars of carillon plus alumni Janet Tebbel (Eastman) and Kayla Gunderson, carillonist extraordinaire. If you are far from UR, you can view the videos of the concerts on Facebook @Hopeman Carillon.

Second, we extend a special invitation to Meliora 2023, October 5-8, 2023, a momentous event that will celebrate the rich history and culture of the University of Rochester. Alex Johnson ’18, winner Queen Fabiola contest 2019, will provide a concert Saturday October 7 at 12:30pm, followed by a reception.

Don’t miss this, Alex is fabulous on bells. We would be thrilled for you to join us to enjoy the music and share in the joy of our 50th Year Anniversary Hopeman Carillon celebrations.

Once again, we cannot express our gratitude enough for your support of our carillon program. Your dedication has been invaluable in making the program thrive. We hope to see you at our upcoming events and to continue working together to create beautiful music for years to come.

Warm regards,
Yao Yin, Senior ’23, UR Carillon Society

“Part of the secret of a good chime is in the foundry, part is in the tune, and part is in the wind, but the most is in the imagination of the listener.”—JR Slater, first Bellman of Hopeman Chime