

2023 Meliora Weekend Performances
UR Carillon Studio, Fri Oct. 6, 5pm
Alex Johnson, Sat Oct. 7, 12:30 pm
Koen Van Assche, Sun Oct 8, 5:00 pm

Arthur Satz Department of Music
University of Rochester

Hopeman Carillon 50th Anniversary



BOUNDLESS POSSIBILITIES

1973-2023

MELIORA WEEKEND

Hopeman Memorial Carillon Events 50th Anniversary Celebration

Friday October 6, 2023

U of R Carillon Studio “Song of the Bell” Concert

5:00-6:00 pm

Saturday October 7, 2023

Alex Johnson 50th Anniversary Celebration Concert

12:30-1:30 pm

Hopeman Memorial Carillon 50th Anniversary Reception
Hawkins Carlson Room, Rush Rhees Library

1:30-2:30 pm

Carillon Practice Instrument Tours
Limited Space! Sign Up Required at Reception!

2:45 pm

Sunday October 8, 2023

Alex Johnson Carillon Masterclass
Special Invitation Only!

11:00 am

International Carillon Culture Dialogues Discussion
featuring Alex Johnson, Koen Van Assche, and Claire Janezic
Dewey B-315

1:30-2:30 pm

Koen Van Assche “Two Triptychs” Concert

5:00-6:00 pm



Image Courtesy of Bingyi Liu '23

50th Anniversary of the Hopeman Memorial Carillon

A Carillon Concert by Alex Johnson

Saturday October 7, 2023, 12:30 pm

Eastman Quadrangle, River Campus 755 Library Rd

Reception Follows, Hawkins Carlson Room, Rush Rhees Library

The Genesee

Poem by T. T. Swinburne (1865-1926)

Old melody arranged by Herve D. Wilkins (1843-1914)

Prelude No. 3

Matthias Vanden Gheyn (1721-1785)

Carillon Alumni Favorites

Low Bridge, Everybody Down

Thomas S. Allen (1876-1919), arr. Alex Johnson

The Second Waltz

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975), arr. Frank Steijns

Lament and Alleluia

Alice Gomez (b. 1960)

Wade in the Water

Traditional, arr. Charles Zettek

Music on Nature

Forest in the Dark*

Hanzhi Zhang (b. 1999)

The Sacredness of Trees

Ellen Lindquist (b. 1970)

Andromeda

Yvette Janine Jackson (b. 1973)

Popular Tunes from 1973

When I'm Sixty-Four

Paul McCartney (b. 1942)

Imagine

John Lennon (1940-1980)

Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da

Lennon-McCartney

Music for the Hopeman Memorial Carillon

Sagoyewatha

Charles Zettek (b. 1951)

North Star

Charles Zettek

Butterfly Fantasia**

Alex Johnson (b. 1997)

*Winner of the 2018 Rochester Carillon Composition Competition

**Winner of the 2019 Rochester Carillon Composition Competition

Duet performance with Sara MacNally, UR '17

Notes on the following page.

Program Notes from Alex Johnson:

The Genesee, first published in "Songs of the University of Rochester" in 1908, is the best-known song of the University. Students have been singing about the Genesee's "famous streams" and "stately falls" since the late 19th century.

Prelude No. 3 is one of a series of eleven preludes written by Matthias Vanden Gheyn. As city carillonneur, composer, and organist, Vanden Gheyn was the most important musician in the Belgian city of Leuven in the mid-18th century. The carillon art started 500 years ago in Belgium, and Vanden Gheyn's preludes are a foundational element of the carillon repertoire.

Carillon Alumni Favorites:

Low Bridge, Everybody Down (also known as The Erie Canal Song) and Shostakovich's **The Second Waltz** were two of my own favorites while I was a student at the University of Rochester. **Lament and Alleluia** was a favorite of Claire Janezic, UR '22, and **Wade in the Water** a favorite of Kayla Gunderson, UR '23. Simultaneously, **Lament and Alleluia is programmed to honor former Bellmen of the university who've recently passed**, and Wade in the Water relates to the Underground Railroad, and thus to Susan B. Anthony.

Music on Nature:

The title of this section speaks to the constellation of parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted throughout the city of Rochester, including Highland Park and Genesee Valley Park. The specific titles, **Forest in the Dark** and **The Sacredness of Trees**, connect to the university's arboretum, sprinkled across the River Campus, which features hundreds of varieties of trees and shrubs from across the world. As innovative works from the contemporary carillon repertoire, all three pieces in this section, but especially **Andromeda**, a piece about a distant galaxy, exemplify the theme of the **2023 Meliora Weekend, "Be Boundless"**.

Popular Tunes from 1973:

1973 The year the Hopeman Memorial Carillon was dedicated. **When I'm Sixty-Four** is not only a song about age, but also about youth and love. Paul McCartney wrote the melody when he was just 14 years old. Connecting once again to the theme of Meliora Weekend, **Imagine** encourages us to envision a world very different from our own, a world where all the people can live as one, in peace. Finally, **Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da**, a phrase popularized by Jimmy Scott, simply means, "Life goes on".

Music for the Hopeman Memorial Carillon:

Sagoyewatha and **North Star** are just two of many compositions by Charles Zettek, UR '73. About Sagoyewatha, the composer writes: "Sagoyewatha was a Seneca chief and a chief negotiator of the Canandaigua Peace Treaty of 1794 between the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy and the United States Government. The five-note motif in the opening is intended to honor the spoken name Sa-go-ye-wa-tha. The piece slowly builds in hope towards the climactic signing of the treaty. But then, the treaty's promise fades away, leaving the listener with wistful longings for the way things used to be." North Star connects again to Rochester's place in the Underground Railroad and speaks, in the eye of the performer, more broadly to the University as an institution that guides young people as well as illuminates for them the possibilities of the world.

Butterfly Fantasia is a duet that explores a variety of textures not possible with a single performer. Listen for gestures that expand like a butterfly opening its wings, fluttering grace notes, and rhythms that mimic the insect's fitful flight. I close with this piece to suggest the boundless possibilities of the carillon and to express via the beauty of butterflies my feelings for the University of Rochester: a beautiful place filled with wonderful people.

“Two Triptychs”
A Carillon Concert Featuring Koen Van Assche, Belgium
Sunday October 8, 2023, 5:00 pm

From Piano To Carillon

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Piano Sonata no. 11 in a minor (KV 331) | Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) |
| -Andante Grazioso (Theme and Variations) | |
| -Menuetto and Trio | |
| -Rondo alla Turca | |
| 2. Two Impromptus | Franz Schubert (1797-1828) |
| -Impromptu, op. 142, no. 2 | |
| -Impromptu, op. 90, no. 2 | |
| 3. Grande Valse Brilliant | Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849) |

Written for the Carillon, in Different Styles

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|---|--------------------------|
| 4. Ballade | Jef Rottiers (1904-1984) |
| 5. *Mist Against the Cathedral* | Claire Janezic (b. 2000) |
| 6. *Heavenly Creatures* | Jeroen Malaise (b. 1971) |
| -Spring, The Azure Dragon of the East | |
| -Summer, The Vermillion Bird of the South | |
| -Autumn, The White Tiger of the West | |
| -Winter, The Black Tortoise of the North | |

North American Premieres

Arrangements for carillon: B. Winsemius (1), K. Van Assche (2, 3)

Artist Bios



Alex Johnson



Koen Van Assche

Alex Johnson (b. 1997) is currently the University Carillonneur of the University of Chicago. In this role, he teaches a studio of about 20 students and regularly plays the 72-bell 100-ton Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Carillon housed in Rockefeller Memorial Chapel. Alex serves on multiple committees of the nonprofit, The Guild of Carillonneurs in North America, and he is an avid composer, improviser, and supporter of new music. Previously, Alex has taught carillon at the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Rochester. He also taught high school math in Austin, Texas. Alex studied carillon at the Royal Carillon School “Jef Denyn” in Belgium, at Bok Tower Gardens in Florida, and at the University of Rochester, from where he actually obtained a degree in physics. In 2019, he won 1st Prize at the most prestigious carillon competition, the 8th International Queen Fabiola Carillon Competition. Alex has also dabbled in mbira, gamelan, and several forms of dance.

Koen Van Assche (b. 1967) is carillonneur of Antwerp, Lier, Turnhout and Herentals. His music education began in the children’s choir of the Royal Flemish Opera, as well as with flute lessons. At the age of 14 he started his carillon studies at the Royal Carillon School ‘Jef Denyn’ in Mechelen, where he graduated in 1986. He has won performance prizes at several international carillon competitions, and has given recitals and masterclasses extensively worldwide. Koen is president of the World Carillon Federation. He is also a noted pedagogue, and is the author of a playing method for carillon. He teaches at the Royal Carillon School, and at the Academy of Music in Lier. Koen is known for his performances of classical Romantic arrangements, and original Mechelen-Romantic compositions. He is also known for performances of carillon in ensemble with other instruments, especially with the Bronzen Piano (www.bronzenpiano.com), a mobile carillon created by Anna Maria Reverté and himself. Performances with this instrument include a concert with string orchestra inside the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona in 2017 for an audience of more than a thousand listeners. Among Koen’s CD recordings are an arrangement of “The Four Seasons” by Vivaldi; the music of Matthias Vanden Gheyn; and the CD “Grand Carillons,” featuring the carillon of Bok Tower Gardens. He has also recorded the CD “Lier in Bronze” with carillon in combination with piano, mezzo-soprano, classical accordion, harp and flute.

"It is heard beyond the trees, beyond the river, beyond
what we see and know.

It may be long remembered by those we never saw, in
moments of joy or sorrow, danger, or delight...

So, we are glad to ring the chime while we can;
grateful for the chance to sound greater than we are."

--John Rothwell Slater June 22, 1965,
First Bellman, Hopeman Chime



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