

39th Annual Middlebury College Carillon Series

October 19, 2024

5:00–6:00 PM

Middlebury Chapel and surrounding lawns

Chi Ian Jess Ip

Assistant Carillonneur, University of Chicago

Suite Seasons

Frank DellaPenna (b.1951)

Season of Life

Season of Hope

Kataware Doki (theme song of movie *Your Name*)

Yojiro Noda (b.1985)

Arr. C.I.J. Ip (b. 2000)

Reflexies

Jacques Maassen (1947-2013)

City of Stars

Justin Hurwitz (b.1985)

Arr. Joey Brink (b. 1988)

Prelude Romantique

Frank Steijns (b.1970)

Preludio 5

Matthias Vanden Gheyn (1721-1785)

Golden Hour

JVKE (b. 2001)

Arr. J. Mori (b. 1997)

Sonatine

Stefano Colletti (b.1973)

Program notes:

Suite Season, composed by Frank DellaPenna, was commissioned to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon. Renowned for his traveling show "Cast in Bronze," DellaPenna is known for performing on his mobile carillon behind a mask.

Jacques Maassen was a Dutch carillonist and composer. He composed **Reflexies** shortly after the passing of his father. The piece juxtaposes slow, solemn sections with fast, violent ones, reflecting a deep emotional contrast.

Prelude Romantique by Frank Steijns masterfully blends a modern sensibility with romantic style. The piece features dramatic melodies with a broad dynamic range, which contrasts sharply with the tranquil mood created by the use of tremolos. This dynamic interplay between vibrant expressions and calm textures highlights the composition's unique emotional depth.

Preludio 5 is a composition by Matthias Vanden Gheyn, an 18th-century Flemish carillon composer. This piece, part of his collection of eleven carillon preludes, showcases dramatic and robust melodic lines that embody Vanden Gheyn's transitional style between the Baroque and Classical periods. The prelude is noted for its intricate broken-chord structures in alternating hands.

The piece **Sonatine**, composed by Stefano Colletti, was inspired by the adagio movement of Maurice Ravel's Piano Concerto in G Major, a piece renowned for its flowing piano melody that unfolds over gently undulating orchestral textures. In Colletti's Sonatine, an improvisatory section with broken rolls leads into a lyrical middle part featuring tremolando, before returning to the thematic material of the opening.

Biography



Jess Ip is currently a first-year Physics Ph.D. student at MIT. She began learning the carillon under Joey Brink and later Alex Johnson during her undergraduate years at the University of Chicago. During her time there, she also served as a board member and the vice president of the UChicago Guild of Carillonists. In 2023, she graduated

with a double major in physics and philosophy and became a carillonist member of the GCNA. She now plays regularly at the Norwood Town Hall Carillon and the St. Stephen's Cohasset Carillon. In her spare time, she enjoys painting, reading, and discovering new postcards to add to her collection. Although she has absolutely no sense of direction, she still loves to go hiking and exploring museums, where she often finds herself getting lost.

About the Carillon

In the late Middle Ages, life was regulated by one large town bell tolling the hour. Over time, several small bells were programmed to play a melody alerting the people that the hour was about to strike. Many towns became competitive with increasingly beautiful melodies announcing the hour, and they were frequently changed—a laborious process of setting pins in a large rotating drum. In 1510, simultaneously in Oudenarde, Netherlands and Lubeck, Germany, a keyboard was added to the rank of little bells—voilà, a carillon! Now the town could have an unlimited number of melodies.

A carillon comprises at least 23 tuned bells arranged in a chromatic scale; less than 23 bells is a chime. A “full carillon” denotes at least 47 bells/four octaves. A “grand carillon” denotes four and a half octaves/ 53 bells or more. Middlebury’s carillon is 48 bells, a harmonious mix of American and French bells installed in 1985. Today there are about 750 carillons in the world; 178 of those are in the US.

Visit go.middlebury.edu/carillon for more information.