

## 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Middlebury College Carillon Series

October 26, 2024

5:00–6:00 PM

Middlebury Chapel and surrounding lawns

George Matthew Jr., Carillonneur, Middlebury College & Norwich University

Våsterås Sonate  
Lento Allegro Tempo di Valse  
Johann Adriaenssen (*b.* 1950)

Autumn, from the Four Seasons  
Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741)  
Transcription Ari Abbenes, 1991

Autumn  
Johann Adriaenssen

Geomparale  
Paul Takahashi (*b.* 1967)

In Solidarity with Ukraine  
I Will Perish in Exile  
Ukrainian Dance  
Ukrainian National Anthem  
Traditional  
Transcription Dr. Andrea McCrady  
Naftule Brandwein (1884–1963)  
Transcription Judith Mostyn White  
Mikhail Verbitsky (1815–1870)  
Transcription Vidas Pinkevicius

Tree Modes  
Japanese Flowering Quince  
Weeping Willow  
Southern Magnolia  
Amy Michelle Black

In Memory of Trees  
Enya  
Transcription George Matthew Jr.

Weeping Willow Rag  
Scott Joplin (1868–1917)  
Transcription George Matthew Jr.

Program notes:

**Paul Takahashi** studied extensively in Eastern Europe, including playing in folk ensembles. Geomparale is based on Romanian themes in 7/8 time. The word is pronounced like “jumper rally”.

Enya created “**In Memory of Trees**” with a melody in the treble and an obligato accompaniment. Here it is with the melody in the bass bells and the obligato in the treble, somewhat reminiscent of a French organ toccata.

### Biography



George Matthew Jr. has been carillonneur of Norwich University and Middlebury since 1986. A church organist since the age of 13, he is currently organist at St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church in Brandon, Vermont. For eleven years he was accompanist for the Middlebury Community Chorus. In 2005 he was named Artist of the Year by the Vermont Chapter American Guild of Organists.

Mr. Matthew has made 40 carillon concert tours of the US and 13 of Europe. In all, he has played over 200 carillons. He has composed and arranged about 100 pieces for carillon, including a number of ragtime piano works. He is a graduate of Columbia, Bridgeport, and Wesleyan Universities. He is married to Irish wire harpist Sherri Matthew.

## 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](http://go.middlebury.edu/carillon) for more information.