

39th Annual Middlebury College Carillon Series

September 14, 2024

5:00–6:00 PM

Middlebury Chapel and surrounding lawns

George Matthew Jr., Carillonneur
Middlebury College & Norwich University

Suite for Carillon			Joanna Wagenaar (1900–2000)
Rigaudon	Canzona	Pastorale	
Utrechts Jolijt			Johann Wagenaar (1862–1941)
Carillon			Jan Wagenaar (1918–1959)
Allegro Rondo for Carillon			Jan Wagenaar
12/20/82 Song			R. Carlos Nakai (<i>b.</i> 1946) Transcription George Matthew Jr.
Kalamatianos			Chris Bos (1920–1996)
Medley of Mexican Songs			Traditional Transcription George Matthew Jr.
Ukrainian Pieces			
Melody			Miroslav Skornyk (1938–2000)
The Mighty Dnieper			Taras Shevchenko (1814–1861) Transcription Svatislav Vakarchuk
Ukrainian National Anthem			Mikhail Verbitsky (1815–1870) Transcription Vidas Pinkevicius
Nochtraí (Gaelic: Nocturn)			Aloys Fleischmann (1910 – 1992)
Irish Dance			Staf Gebruers (1902–1970)

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 for more information.