

40th Annual Middlebury College Carillon Series

September 19, 2025

6:00–7:00 PM

Middlebury Chapel and surrounding lawns

Charles Semowich

Carillonneur Emeritus, Riverside Church, NYC

Fanfare for Middlebury College, Dedicated to George Matthew, Jr.	Charles Semowich
School Days	Gus Edwards, arranged by Richard Giszczak
Row, Row, Row Your Boat	E. Lyte, arranged by Leen 't Hart
Prelude in C#, Opus 3, No 2	Sergei Rachmaninov arranged by Bob van Wely
I am Still Standing	Bernie Taupin and Elton John arranged by Joey Brink
Invincible Main Theme (from Amazon Prime Original Video)	Adam Joseph Hochstatter, Brandon Kimball, Anthony Loomis, John Paesano, arranged by Charles Semowich
Autumn Showers	Robin Dinda
Season of the Falling Leaves	Frank DellaPenna
Autumn	Aaron David Miller
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	Johann Sebastian Bach, arranged by J. A. H. Wagenaar

Each selection will be identified by the ringing of a single bell.

Biography



Charles Semowich holds a BA from the University at Binghamton, an MFA from Catholic University of America and a PhD from International College. He studied organ privately and at the University at Binghamton, He studied carillon at the University of Michigan and privately with George Matthew, Jr., Carlo Van Ulft and Ellen Dickinson. He performs at the carillon at Albany City Hall, which included performances for three governor's inaugurations and other special events. He has performed concerts in New England, Pennsylvania and Virginia. He has composed many pieces for carillon, some of which have been published by Fenwick Parva Press, Friends of the Albany City Carillon, SheetMusicPlus and DeLaetsburg Press. In 2019, he was appointed the fifth carillonneur at Riverside Church (NYC) which had been considered to be the largest carillon in the world; he retired from that position in 2024. In 2022, he was appointed Grand Organist for the Grand Lodge of Masons in the State of New York. He is an active visual artist and has exhibited widely. He is the author of 7 books and many articles. He has been included in *Who's Who in America*.

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 Oudenaarde, Belgium 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 began as an 11-bell chime in 1915. It is now a 48-bell carillon, a harmonious mix of American and French bells installed in 1986. Today there are about 750 carillons in the world; 178 of those are in the US.

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