

40th Annual Middlebury College Carillon Series

September 26, 2025

6:00–7:00 PM

Middlebury Chapel and surrounding lawns

George Matthew Jr., Carillonneur

Middlebury College & Norwich University

Lo Quattro Stagioni (Autumno)
“The Four Seasons” – Autumn

Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741)
Transcription Arie Abbenes

Sonata in F, K. 300
Allegro
Adagio
Allegro assai

W. A. Mozart (1756 – 1791)
Transcription Georg Köppl

The Jovial Clarinet

Karel Borghuis
(1927 – 1992)

Geomparale

Paul Takahashi *
(b. 1967)

Reflections from the Tower

Emma Lou Diemer **
(1927 – 2024)

Variations on “Morning Has Broken”

George Matthew Jr.
(b. 1935)

Red Peppers Rag

Imogene Giles (1877 – 1964)
Transcription George Matthew Jr.

Notes

*Paul Takahashi studied extensively in Eastern Europe, especially Romania. This piece (pronounced “jumper rally”) is mostly in 7/8 time and utilizes Romany scales and rhythms.

**Emma Lou Diemer wrote extensively for organ, choral and instrumental ensembles, and this amazing carillon piece. She is remembered as a wonderful performer, composer and above all, as teacher.

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 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.