

Klokkekoncert, Aarhus Rådhus, 18 juli 2019 kl. 16:00-16:45

Klokkenist: Tiffany Ng, University Carillonist, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (USA)

Carillon Colors

1. Book tour: Highlights from <u>The Music of <i>March</i>: A Civil Rights Carillon Collection</u> (2019)	
This Little Light of Mine	African American spiritual arr. Tiffany Ng
Freedom is a Constant Struggle	Roberta Slavitt arr. Yvette Janine Jackson
Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round	Traditional arr. Jen Wang
Which Side Are You On?	Florence Reece (1900-1986) arr. Joey Brink
Woke Up This Morning With My Mind on Freedom	Traditional arr. Tiffany Ng
2. New commissions from the GCNA Franco Composition Fund	
Peacemakers (2019) <i>Prizewinner in the 2019 Composition Contest</i>	Pamela Ruiters-Feenstra (1961)
July 3 – A Hall of Mirrors (2018) i. the stained glass of your chapel ii. stillness and symmetry	Jenny Olivia Johnson (1978)
Tower City (2018) <i>Commissioned by the Franco Fund</i>	Jessie Montgomery (1981)
3. Organ works by Florence Price: Black female composer who shattered glass ceilings	
Adoration Little Melody Allegretto	Florence Beatrice Price (1887-1953) arr. Tiffany Ng
4. Music for #MeToo: Song for a survivor of sexual assault	
Rise (2016 Summer Olympics theme)	Katy Perry, with Savan Kotecha, Max Martin, Ali Payami arr. Tiffany Ng
5. African American Motown music	

I'm Coming Out (1980)	Nile Rogers (♯1952), Bernard Edwards (1952-1996), sung by Diana Ross arr. Tiffany Ng
Respect (1967)	Otis Redding (1941-1967), Aretha Franklin (1942-2018) arr. Tiffany Ng

Program Notes

1. Tiffany Ng's new carillon book presents arrangements of American Civil Rights Movement songs that appear in the award-winning comic book trilogy *March* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell. The comics illustrate the nonviolent resistance leadership of civil rights hero John Lewis. Participating composer **Yvette Janine Jackson**, a professor at Harvard University, is only the second Black composer to publish carillon music in the USA. All royalties from the book will be donated to charity.

2a. Renowned organist and improviser **Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra** composed *Peacemakers* as an antidote to hateful speech and actions. *Peacemakers* is dedicated to Tiffany Ng for her trailblazing peacemaking activism. The composition was inspired by Chopin's Nocturne, op. 27, no. 1, in which the composer vacillates between major and minor mode. This modal ambiguity speaks to life's unexpected struggles, often followed by surprising moments of beauty or grace. Encircling the Golden mean (61.8%) of the piece is a newly composed "hymn" in C major (Ionian mode), which gives relief as Bach did by placing chorales in his cantatas. These modal shifts suggest a yearning for peace, and for peacemakers in the world.

2b. Commissioned by the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America (GCNA), Wellesley College professor **Jenny Olivia Johnson** wrote a monumental piece inspired by two "especially magical [campus] landmarks: Houghton Chapel, an echoic place of worship studded with a number of mesmerizing stained glass windows, and Waban Lake, on the shores of which is a mysterious topiary garden. At times these places can take on a rather mystical aura; because of the reflectivity of the lake, and the glossy darkness of the chapel windows, I often felt while walking there that I was in a hall of mirrors."

2c. Commissioned by the GCNA, acclaimed composer **Jessie Montgomery** is the first Black woman to publish music for carillon. About *Tower City*, Montgomery writes, "I wanted to evoke the majestic quality of an instrument people often take for granted. Whenever the carillonneur takes his or her place and hits their first note, they attract attention from the (at most times) *accidental* listener. The instrument calls our attention whether we are ready for it or not. Even in the most bustling cities, we can be delightfully stunned, and perhaps reshaped or relieved, by a sudden call from the Tower."

3. **Florence Price** became the first African American woman to have a composition performed by a major American orchestra when the Chicago Symphony Orchestra premiered her Symphony in E Minor in 1933. The piece was performed again at the Chicago World's Fair. Price composed over 300 works for orchestra, piano, organ, voice, and more during her prolific career. Following the rediscovery of some of her lost manuscripts, her music has been undergoing a major American revival.

4. Starting in 1992, serial child molester Larry Nassar—a USA Gymnastics national team doctor and physician at Michigan State University (MSU)—molested at least 250 young victims. In January 2018, he was sentenced to 40 to 175 years in state prison. On April 16, 2019, the MSU Museum opened the exhibit “Finding Our Voice: Sister Survivors Speak,” allowing survivors of his abuse to tell their own stories. They requested a carillon concert of songs that helped them through their trauma, and MSU University Carillonneur Ray McLellan commissioned Tiffany Ng to arrange the songs. Amongst them was **Katy Perry’s** “Rise,” an Olympic anthem about surviving, winning, and telling your story—an apt rebuke to Nassar. At the concert, McLellan was surrounded by the youngest survivors, who are now 11 to 13 years old.

5. The University of Michigan is near Detroit, the birthplace of Motown and techno music, and the hometown of **Diana Ross** and **Aretha Franklin**. Ross’s disco hit “I’m Coming Out” has become an anthem for the LGBTQ community, and Ng plays it every year on National Coming Out Day. Ng arranged Aretha Franklin’s version of “Respect” for carillon on September 27, 2018, the day Dr. Christine Blasey Ford testified in front of Congress that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her in high school. Having watched the earlier explosion of hate and death threats against Dr. Ford, and after watching Congressmen strive to discredit her on national television, Ng immediately wrote and performed her arrangement of “Respect,” which will be published next year.

CV

Tiffany Ng is Assistant Professor of Carillon at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She holds a doctorate in musicology and new media studies from the University of California, Berkeley. Ng earned a master’s degree in organ from the Eastman School of Music and a diploma with great distinction from the Royal Carillon School in Belgium. Her concert career has taken her to festivals in fifteen countries in Europe, Asia, Australia, and North America, where she has premiered over forty acoustic and electroacoustic works, championed the work of women composers, and pioneered models for interactive “crowdsourced” and environmental-data-driven carillon performances. She also serves on the faculty of the North American Carillon School.

