

**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Whitemarsh
in Fort Washington, PA
Michelle Lam
July 21, 2026**

1. Today's Church Carillonneur

Melita [†] ("The Navy Hymn") (1861)	John B. Dykes (1823-1876), arr. Beverly Buchanan
Cortege and Fugue (1987)	John Courter (1941-2010)
Abide with Me [†] (1847)	William Henry Monk (1823-1889), arr. John Courter
A Sacred Suite [†] (2018)	Geert D'hollander (b. 1965)
I. Da Pacem Domine ("Give Peace, O Lord")	
II. Regina Coeli ("Queen of Heaven, Rejoice, Alleluia")	
III. Sancti Spiritus ("May the grace of the Holy Ghost be with us now")	

2. America 250

There is a Balm in Gilead [†] (19th century)	Trad. African American spiritual, arr. John Courter
E pluribus unum (2019)	Mark Gotham
Pleiades Ioken:yate (2024)	Dawn Ieri'ho:kwats Avery (b. 1961)
Sonata for Carillon (2005)	Stephen Rush (b. 1948)
II. Flux	
III. Holy Manna [†]	

3. Gonna Be Golden

Golden from <i>KPop Demon Hunters</i> (2025)	K. Eun-jae, M. Sonnenblick, J.G. Kwak, Y.H. Lee, H.D. Nam, J.H. Seo, T. Park, arr. Joey Brink
Colors of the Wind from <i>Pocahontas</i> (1995)	Alan Menken (b. 1949), arr. Joey Brink

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**Program notes**

*To commemorate America's 250th Anniversary, every selection was either composed by an American, arranged by an American, or inspired by a traditional American piece. Compositions based on sacred music are denoted by a cross (†).*

Any modern American church carillonneur is familiar with Beverly Buchanan (1931-2018) and John Courter (1941-2010), both of whom were prolific arrangers for the carillon including such pieces as *Melita*, *Abide with Me*, and *There is a Balm in Gilead*. Buchanan and Courter both studied carillon and organ at the University of Michigan (as did this program's recitalist!). Courter was also a gifted composer, writing over 20 pieces for the carillon, including *Cortege and Fugue*, written in the style of baroque music.

With over 30 first prizes in international composition competitions, Geert D'hollander is a preeminent living composer for carillon. *A Sacred Suite* was commissioned for the inauguration of the Peace Carillon in Leuven, Belgium. Each movement in the suite is based on a Gregorian melody that would sound on 16th century automatic carillons. D'hollander was born in Belgium and was naturalized as an American citizen in 2018. He has been the carillonneur at Bok Tower Gardens in Florida since 2012. Bok Tower Gardens' co-founder, Edward Bok, was also a naturalized American citizen; Bok immigrated from the Netherlands, and won the Pulitzer Prize for his contributions to American journalism.

*E pluribus unum* begins with scattered and disjointed notes based on America's national anthem, *The Star-Spangled Banner*. With deliberate resolve, the disjointed notes eventually come together to form a

harmonious melody--**out of many, one**. Mark Gotham originally wrote this piece for the 21-bell Cornell University chimes, and rearranged it to take advantage of a concert carillon's larger range.

Dawn Ieri'hó:hwats Avery is a performer, composer and professor of Mohawk descent who focuses on Native Classical Music, Indigenous theory and research. *Pleiades Ioken:yate* (pronounced "PLEE-ah-dees yo-GON-yah-day") was commissioned in 2024 by the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America and sonifies the Mohawk origin myth of seven dancing boys who ascended to the cosmos to become the Pleiades constellation, represented by recurring seven note motifs.

Stephen Rush is a distinguished American composer and professor of performing arts technology at the University of Michigan. *Sonata for Carillon* is a suite of rhythmic pieces that leverages a concert carillon's full range and percussive qualities. As its name suggests, the second movement, *Flux*, plaintively searches for its home key with several bright bursts of inspiration scattered throughout. The third movement is a variation on the American hymn, Holy Manna, published in Southern Harmony (1835). Rush composed the sonata *in Tempus Bellum*, inscribing the hymn's lyrics at the beginning of the piece:

Is there a trembling jailer,  
Seeking grace and fill'd with fears  
Is there here a weeping Mary,  
Pouring forth a flood of tears?  
Brethren, join your cries to help them  
Sisters, let your prayers abound  
Pray, O! pray that holy manna  
May be scatter'd all around.

The concert closes with two "golden" songs from American animated films, each a winner of Golden Globe, Grammy, and Academy Awards. Though these *KPop Demon Hunters* and *Pocahontas* are two decades apart, they are both a product of America's proud heritage as a melting pot, with many cultures coming together to produce distinctly American masterpieces.



## Biography

Michelle S. Lam is an Associate Carillonist at the Netherlands Carillon in Arlington, VA and at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Previously, she was the Carillonist at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church in Grosse Pointe Farms, MI. She started her carillon studies at Wellesley College and continued at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Dr. Lam attained Carillonneur status from the Guild of Carillonneurs of North America (GCNA) in 2022, and serves as a director on the GCNA's board and as chair of the GCNA's Finance Committee.

Dr. Lam's recitals and work in the carillon community focus on highlighting people of color, women, and lesser played works. With co-author Dr. Elisa Tersigni, she published "The North American Carillon Community Survey" in 2025, the first comprehensive study of the continent's carillon culture, with a focus on diversity and accessibility. Outside of carillon, she graduated with her economics PhD in 2023 from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and works as an antitrust economist in Washington, DC.

Programs and more information can be found at [michelleslam.com/carillon/](https://michelleslam.com/carillon/) and on Instagram, [@michelle\\_plays\\_bells](https://www.instagram.com/michelle_plays_bells).