

Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA
Michelle Lam
September 11, 2026

1. **Sacred meditations**

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")
There is a Balm in Gilead[†] (19th century) arr. John Courter (1941-2010)

2. **America 250**

Sonata for Carillon: III. Holy Manna (2005) Stephen Rush (b. 1948)
E pluribus unum (2019) Mark Gotham

3. **Gonna Be Golden**

Golden from *KPop Demon Hunters* (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 *Pocahontas* (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 (†).*

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.

*There is a Balm in Gilead* is a traditional African American spiritual dating back to at least the 1800s. Referenced in Jeremiah 8:22 in the Old Testament, the potent healing "balm in Gilead" also serves as a metaphor for the healing power of faith and hope.

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.

*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.

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).