



**Eve Schmitt**  
**Thursday July 11, 2024 • 6 p.m.**

1. We Shall Overcome
2. Fanfare for the Common Man
3. Battle Hymn of the Republic
4. America the Beautiful
5. Lift Every Voice and Sing
6. Mary Don't You Weep
7. Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around
8. Story of a Soldier
9. Jerusalem
10. Do You Hear the People Sing
11. Shalom Chaverim
12. The Popular Wobbly
13. Pie in the Sky
14. Ballad of Joe Hill
15. Which Side Are You On
16. Step by Step
17. Mary Ellen Carter
18. This Land is Your Land





**Margaret Angelini**  
**Thursday July 18, 2024 • 6 p.m.**

Familiar Sounds

Hidden Hymns

Chorale Partita IV – “St. Anne”; John R. Knox (1932-2023)

Wings of the Morning from American Gothic; Joey Brink (b. 1987)

Old Style Variations on O Waly Waly; Geert D’hollander (b. 1965)

Hymn

Canon

A Lullaby

And a Happy Dance

So Fades the Lovely, Blooming Flower; William Walker’s Southern Harmony, 1835, arr. Dzuris

All of Creation

All Things Bright and Beautiful; Royal Oak, arr. Jones

On the Back of the Turtle; Beverley McKiver (1958)

Pleiades Ioken:yate; Dawn Ieri’hó:kwats Avery (comp. 2024)

Clair de Lune; Claude Debussy (1862-1918), arr. Angelini

Theme from Jupiter from the Planets; Gustav Holst (1874-1934) arr. Stelben

All Our Hope

Motherless Child; African American Spiritual arr. Thompson

Steal Away; African American Spiritual arr. Angelini

Chorale Partita V – “All my Hope on God is Founded;” Knox



# Margaret Angelini

## Program Notes

This concert offers some old favorite hymns as well as some new works from other faith traditions. Listen for O God Our Help in Ages Past in the opening Chorale Partita, where the variations are connected without a pause. There are three main parts to the piece; after the slow middle section listen for a surprise quotation of one of Bach's organ works at the start of section three. Wings of the Morning comes from a suite of pieces loosely based upon Simple Gifts. Each movement celebrates an aspect of the Kirk in the Hills of Bloomfield, MI, the church that commissioned the work. O Waly Waly is sometimes used with a poetic setting of Paul's 1 Corinthians 13. The melody becomes a bit harder to find as the variations progress. The Southern Harmony melody Distress is the basis of So Fades the Lovely, Blooming Flower; Dzuris' setting respects the style's angular and forthright presentation.

On the Back of the Turtle paints the creation myth of some of Canada's First Peoples. After a flood, a great turtle brought up mud from the bottom of a lake for the ancestors, thus creating North America. An American Indigenous myth explains the creation of the 7 stars of the Pleiades as the 7 dancing boys who were sent to the sky world to serve as signal bearers for the people below. Listen for the 7 stomps near the end of the work as they dance through the skies. We can pause while in the heavens to enjoy the moon and the planets; listen for two hymns in the arrangement of Dvorak's beloved melody.

Coming back to earth reminds us to celebrate our faith traditions through thick and thin. These two spirituals are my favorites in that grand tradition. The final partita is based on a hymn tune that is used in England for the text All My Hope on God is Founded, and gives an uplifting end to the concert.

Margaret Angelini began her organ studies as a first year at Wellesley College with Frank Taylor, and graduated in 1985 as a music major. She then completed a Masters' Degree in Organ at New England Conservatory with William Porter. She discovered the carillon by opening the window of her dorm room on her second day at the Wellesley College campus, and promptly fell in love with the sound of the bells. She now teaches carillon at Wellesley College, where she is the first faculty advisor to the 20-member student Guild of Carillonneurs. She also serves as organist at St. John's Episcopal Church in Sharon. When not playing keyboards of all sizes or dragging students to distant bell towers, she can be found kayaking, bicycling, gardening, and crocheting afghans for her nieces and nephews.



**John Widmann**

**Thursday July 25, 2024 • 6 p.m.**

- I. Hymn for last weekend: Kingsfold – English Folktune, arr. Sally Slade Warner (1932-2009)
- II. Prelude in d-minor “Unwritten” – Jef Denyn (1862-1941)
- III. Original Carillon Compositions
  - Dream, for Carillon – Naoto Ohmasa (b. 1954)
  - Toccata Festivole – John Courter (1941-2010)
  - Fantasy on “Ave maris stella” – John Widmann (b. 1963)
- IV. For the Ukraine:
  - Marigolds – Ukrainian Folk Song, arr. Iryna Riabchun
  - Ukraine National Anthem – Mykhailo Verbytsky (1815-1870), arr. Riabchun
- V. European transcriptions:
  - Aria, op. 51, for organ – Flor Peeters (1903-1986), arr. Widmann
  - Après un Rêve, Opus 7, nr. 1 – Gabriël Fauré (1845-1924) arr. Midori Conneman
  - Preludium (oorspr. g-klein) – Matthias vanden Gheyn (1721-1785),  
arr. Koen van Assche (b. 1967)
- VI. Popular Tunes:
  - Make You Feel My Love – Bob Dylan (b. 1941), arr. van Assche
  - Riders on the Storm – the Doors, arr. John Widmann (b. 1963)
  - She’s Always a Woman to me – Billy Joel (b. 1949), arr. Luc Rombouts (b. 1962)
- VII. Ballade – Jef Rottiers (1904-1985)
- VIII. The Star Spangled Banner – arr. Gordon Slater





## John Widmann

John Widmann is the City Carillonneur for the City of Frederick, Maryland, where he plays recitals every Sunday at 12:30, year round, on the Joseph Dill Baker Carillon in Baker Park. He has now held that position for thirty two years. Mr. Widmann graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and completed his Master of Music degree from Towson University in 2011. In 2021-2022, Mr. Widmann received his diploma, "met Onderscheding" (cum laude) at the Royal Carillon School "Jef Denyn" in Mechelen, Belgium. In addition to his Sunday recitals, he retired two years ago from Frederick County Public Schools where he was a General/Vocal Music teacher. He is also the Organist and Choirmaster at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Potomac, MD. Mr. Widmann became a Carillonneur member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America in 1996, and is a past member of the National Board of that organization. He maintains an active concert schedule, and has played frequently in the US, along with recitals in Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, England, Canada, and the Netherlands Antilles. He lives in Frederick with his wife and sometimes their two grown children.

### Program notes:

1. As part of his diploma from the Beiaardschool "Jef Denyn" in Mechelen, Belgium, Widmann completed a Masters' thesis/project. This project was called "Biblical Bronze", and involved creating two searchable databases. The first database listed Revised Common Lectionary readings for all three liturgical years, A B C, and special festivals, listing the readings, and a suitable hymn tune for the Old Testament, the Psalm, The Epistle, and Gospel readings, two each date for the Gospel. The second database is a list of appearances of hymn tunes within published carillon music. Last weekend, July 21, 2024, was year B, Ordinary 16. Kingsfold is an appropriate tune for last Sunday's Gospel reading, Mark 6: 30-34 and 53-56. This tune is commonly sung to the text "I Heard the voice of Jesus say". Have a look at the databases! They are available for use, for free, at [www.bakerparkcarillon.org](http://www.bakerparkcarillon.org)
2. Jef Denyn founded the Mechelen Carillon school that bears his name 103 years ago, in 1921, partially with American funds, mostly provided by a fan of the carillon named John D. Rockefeller. Denyn never wrote down this prelude, which was originally improvised, but taught it to his students by rote, who later wrote it down, thus it's name, "unwritten".
3. Dream for Carillon was written under commission of the Belgian Royal Carillon School in 2021-2022, celebrating its 100th anniversary. A number of pieces were commissioned from a variety of composers in a variety of countries, since the school is an international school. This submission came from Japan.

The Toccata Festivole is from Suite 1 for Carillon by John Courter, who was the carillonneur until his death at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky.

The Fantasy on "Ave Maris Stella" (Mary, Queen of the Ocean), an ancient plainchant tune, was written also as a requirement of graduation in Mechelen. The Diploma required an original work (which this is, but based on a simple original tune), and also an arrangement (the Peeters piece, later in this recital) This fantasy is a theme and five variations.

## John Widmann (con't.)

4. We all hope for an end to the hostilities in Ukraine. In partial support, I play these beautiful tunes that come from Ukraine, including their national anthem. The arranger of these tunes for carillon, Iryna Riabchun, remains in Kiev, playing carillon in the midst of this mess, to this day. Like me, she also studied at the carillon school in Mechelen.

5. The Aria, op. 51 by Flor Peeters was originally written for organ. Peeters was the organist at the Sint-Romboutskathedraal in Mechelen, and taught organ at the Lemmens Institute, a conservatory in Belgium, which was at that point also located in Mechelen (now in Leuven). Widmann wrote this arrangement in partial requirement for the diploma at the carillon school in 2022. This arrangement was dedicated in memory of Widmann's former piano teacher, Charles Farris, of Chambersburg, PA. Farris was also an organist, and studied in Mechelen with Flor Peeters. Farris was also a carillonneur, and often played carillon recitals here in Mercersburg.

Après un Rêve, Opus 7, nr. 1 by Fauré was originally written for voice and piano. This carillon arrangement is by Midori Conneman, a Japanese, now Belgian carillonneur.

The third transcription is by my Belgian Carillon teacher, Koen van Assche, and is also of a harpsichord work by Belgian composer Matthias van den Gheyn, who is one of the earliest composers on record that actually wrote original carillon music, however, this one wasn't originally for carillon.

6. Bob Dylan originally wrote and performed "Make You Feel My Love", but Adele had far more success with it in her more recent cover. This arrangement is also by van Assche.

I arranged the Doors' "Riders on the Storm" for a concert that I played in Portugal which was attended by a motorcycle club – long story, but lots of fun!

"She's Always a Woman to Me" was written by Billy Joel in 1977, in honor of his then-wife, Elizabeth Weber. This arrangement is by Leuven, Belgium carillonneur Luc Rombouts, who was also Widmann's thesis advisor at the Mechelen Carillon School.

7. My finale is a piece by Flemish Composer Jef Rottiers. Rottiers was a carillonneur, influential in the early history of the Mechelen carillon school. A renaissance man, Rottiers was also a great painter, and also wrote for dramatic early radio shows. Later in life, Rottiers married a younger woman, Tilde, who is still alive to this day, in her nineties, and is the mother of Eddy Mariën. I worked on this piece with Eddy in my studies. Eddy remains the authority on performance of Rottier's works, and succeeded Rottiers as the carillonneur of the Flemish town, Meise.

8. Three countries are involved in this arrangement of the Star Spangled Banner. Francis Scott Key, who wrote the words to the poem that we sing, was an attorney from Frederick, Maryland that was contracted by the United States government to secure the release of a Dr. William Beanes, a United States patriot who was captured and held prisoner by the British on their ship during August of 1814, while the British troops were ransacking Washington, DC. While on the British ship negotiating, the British attempted, unsuccessfully, to take over Baltimore, MD, at the time, a much larger city than Washington. They could not get past the US fort McHenry, and Key wrote the triumphant poem "The Defense of Fort McHenry", now nicknamed "The Star Spangled Banner". Key liked a British drinking song "To Anacreon in Heaven", and wrote the text with that tune in mind. The carillon arranger Gordon Slater is the Dominion Carillonneur emeritus of Canada, where he played the carillon at the Houses of Parliament in Ottawa. So, we have a Canadian arrangement of the British drinking song that is our National Anthem.