

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Carillon Description

Middleton Family Carillon (2005)
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, USA

The Bryn Mawr Middleton Family Carillon is a fully chromatic, 4-octave, 49 bell instrument weighing more than 30,000 pounds. The largest bell (Bourdon F1, sounding C1 on the keyboard and pedal board) is the same size as the Liberty Bell, and weighs just under 2000 pounds. The smallest bell weighs about 14 pounds. Cast of bronze in Aarle-Rixtel, Netherlands by the Petit and Fritsen foundry in 2005 and 2006, the Carillon was assembled and finished by the The Verdin Company of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Middleton Carillon is equipped with a mechanical action console and a programmable remote electric console. The lowest 37 bells have two clapper mechanisms, one for each playing system. The mechanical console was built by The Verdin Company. A duplicate practice console is available in the basement of the church's Fine Arts Center.

The pedal board is chromatic, an octave and an half, encompassing C1 through A2. The console is mostly North American standard with the space between the batons and pedal board being somewhat narrower than usual. According to those who have played the instrument, the playing action is light and very responsive.

The playing cabin is located directly under the bells at four levels up in the tower. The tower stairs are entered from the rear Choir Gallery of the church. The cabin is equipped with local heating and air conditioning, and there is video projection and reception in the cabin. Carillon concerts are shown on video display in the church and on the front lawn. In addition to outdoor listening grounds around the tower, the bells can be heard in the Sanctuary from a microphone in the tower.

The carillon is played before and after worship services, for weddings, funerals, for religious holidays, and other special occasions. The Bryn Mawr Carillonneurs are the resident performance and maintenance group. There is an Annual Carillon Concert Series in June and July featuring artists from around the world.

For additional information, refer to the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Fine Arts web site (www.bmpc.org/finearts/) or contact Jeff Brillhart, Director of Fine Arts at (Jeffrey398@aol.com).