



Carillon Lessons and the Simsbury Guild of Carillonneurs



Carillonneur Dan Kehoe and some of his advanced students teach free lessons on the carillon weekly. **Thursday afternoon from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.** has been the traditional time lessons are held, and students learn through individual instruction and by watching the other players' instruction. Lessons are not taught during the Christmas holidays or during the summer.



Generally, students ages 10 and up are welcome, though the overriding considerations on age and musical ability can be expressed as:

- 🔔 being of sufficient physical size and strength to reach the carillon keys and pedals;
- 🔔 exhibiting basic musical ability (can read notes, understand timing and basic rhythms);
- 🔔 can play or easily learn to play a keyboard-based instrument (past piano lessons are not required but are helpful);
- 🔔 exhibiting focused behavior and desire to learn.

Carillon lessons are not intended to teach beginning music, but to learn how to play the carillon. Music is provided by the teacher and periodic recitals are offered to show progress. When able, the students are encouraged to play the carillon before and after Sunday worship services. The group of student players and teachers are known as the Simsbury Guild of Carillonneurs which most summers is granted one of the Sunday carillon concert series slots. Occasionally, the carillonneurs do a field trip together to visit the 10 other carillon towers in Connecticut and are given the chance to play them.

Restrictions are placed on when the carillon can be played (initially only at lessons) but access to the practice keyboard in the tower is only restricted by other events in the sanctuary. Parents of students take turns attending lessons in keeping with Safe Church policies regarding youth.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors