

The National Carillon at Canberra

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Dear Members of the Carillon Committee:

The National Carillon at Canberra, National Capital of Australia has taken a top position among the seven wonders about around 680 carillon instruments worldwide.

This always makes the decision easy to agree to any invitation from Canberra, even if this means a long and time consuming travel to finally get to just one single instrument!

However the National Carillon at Canberra fulfils almost all the conditions for being the world's ideal top-instrument.

A carillon as an instrument is very difficult to construct in the first place. The knowledge of how to do it, has traditionally been kept secret in dangerously small circles. And furthermore because of many wars in Europe and because it's a big instrument that consists of very valuable metal – the bells – the carillon has seen declination over and over again.

The carillonists have hence been used to very poor quality, with in fact only a few highlights scattered around the world.

The National Carillon at Canberra is one of those highlights and is currently being used in the carillon world as an example to follow for improving this instrument elsewhere.

As one carillon often lies far away from the next, comparisons earlier have been very difficult or non-existing; but with modern computer technique a fast swift can be established between e.g. the sound of one and the sound of another – often with a choking clear result in comparison.

I myself have used exactly the National Carillon at Canberra in a comparison at government institutions as e.g. the National Museum in Denmark, where all bell-installations finally are approved in this country – to achieve an easy and define conviction of what bell quality is and what bell quality is not.

Many more aspects than bell quality are of course involved when defining the perfect carillon and they all have to come together in a perfect balance too.

Exactly this experience happens at the National Carillon at Canberra:
This perfect balance.

I hope that this carillon will continue to go ahead showing superior Australian conditions, enthusiasm and cultural development to the rest of the world.

I also hope that the other side of the planet one day will be able to listen to the concerts being performed from this still rather unknown Australian white pearl.

Please use modern technique and the worldwide web for an easy listen access to this instrument, and the rest of the world will know its direct beauty instantly.