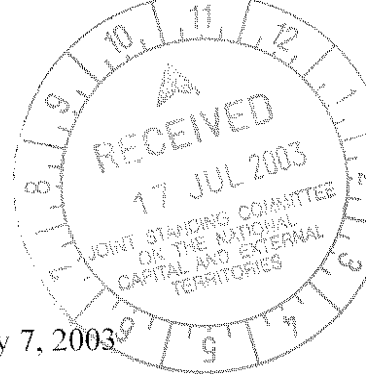


THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
900 BURTON MEMORIAL TOWER
ANN ARBOR, MI 48109-1270

USA



July 7, 2003

The Enquiry Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Sir or Madam,

I welcome the opportunity to write to you about the management of the National Carillon in Canberra. Dr. William Fraser, a former carillon performer on the Canberra Carillon, has told me the address of your committee.

In May of 2001 I had the pleasure of performing a recital on the Canberra Carillon (as well as the carillon at the University of Sydney). Quite a few of the Canberra players were present at my recital and I talked with many of them at a dinner given in my honor. I found the carillon bells to be lovely ones and was surprised to learn that there are plans to replace many of the bells.

Since the arrival of Mr. Timothy Hurd as director of the carillon, I have been dismayed to learn about the intimidating requirements for the present performers and now the closing of the carillon (when no immediate renovation work is to be done). The dismissal of Mrs. Suzanne Magassy has distressed me as well as many of my colleagues from around the world, for through the years we have found her to be an extremely fine performer and an enthusiastic promoter and friend of the Canberra Carillon. Suzanne Magassy has performed on the University of Michigan summer recital series twice and the audiences have particularly loved her programming and musicianship. Mrs. Magassy is the very best representative your city, country and carillon could have. She is extremely well known throughout the carillon world. It is a loss to the carillon art that she is not presently performing.

I wish the committee well in its work. It is my hope that Mrs. Magassy will soon be reinstated as a carillon performer and that the morale of the other dedicated players will be improved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margo Halsted".

Margo Halsted
Associate Professor and University Carillonist
001/734/764-2539
margo@umich.edu