

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
104 Morrison Hall # 1200

BERKELEY, CA 94720-1200

JEFF DAVIS
University Carillonist

July 9, 2003

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



Re: National Carillon

Dear Members of the Committee,

About a year ago I received distressing news that Suzanne Magassy, a long-time performer and champion of the Canberra carillon, had not only not had her contract renewed, but was not even directly informed of that action. I was (and am) convinced this action was based on personality conflicts, not professional considerations.

On July 16, 2002, I wrote to Annabelle Peagram to register my protest. A copy of that letter is included.

I received back a letter from Mr. Jeremy Lasek informing me in blunt terms that personnel decisions were not open to public scrutiny. I was taken aback by this, as I had not suggested scrutinizing the decision, merely asking that it be revisited, given Ms. Magassy's long and important association with the instrument. A copy of Mr. Lasek's letter is also included.

Last summer in Ireland, I heard recitals by both Ms. Magassy and the current director. Quite frankly, Ms. Magassy performed the better recital, both in terms of programming and in beauty of sound. Given the additional fact that the current director placed himself directly and prominently (and rudely) in Ms. Magassy's line of sight during her recital, the quality of her performance was just that much more remarkable.

I write in the hope that your Committee can right a wrong inflicted not only on Ms. Magassy but on the National Capitol Authority and the Canberra carillon.

Sincerely,

Jeff Davis
University Carillonist

Telephone (510) 642-8454
Email: ucbells@uclink.berkeley.edu

Fax: (510) 642-8480
URL: <http://music.berkeley.edu>



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JEFF DAVIS
University Carillonneur

July 16, 2002

CONFIDENTIAL

Annabelle Peagram
CEO
National Capitol Authority
P.O. Box 373
Canberra City, Australia 2601

Re: Suzanne Magassy

Dear Ms. Peagram,

I write asking you to revisit the matter of the contract renewal for Suzanne Magassy. Ms. Magassy has performed on the Canberra carillon for over two decades. Clearly her length of good service to the Canberra instrument would be enough to warrant, at a minimum, the questioning of this decision. In addition, Ms. Magassy is currently involved in her fourteenth overseas recital tour. Clearly, if Ms. Magassy were inept as a performer on the carillon there would be no possibility she would get repeatedly invited to perform in Europe and North America. In 1997 Ms. Magassy successfully passed her Guild of Carillonneurs in North America examination and became a carillonneur member of the North American guild, the first Australian to do so. I was President of the Guild at the time, and it was a happy moment.

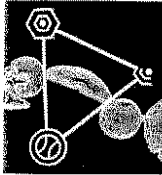
Without going into detail about Timothy Hurd (although I would do so in a confidential letter, should your office make the request), I can say without fear of contradiction that Mr. Hurd has a long history of failed relations with his carillon colleagues. In this case, as in many others, he has inflicted pain with a casual disregard for the consequences.

I appeal to you to reconsider the contract renewal of Ms. Magassy. She has been a solid mainstay of the Canberra carillon for decades, giving devoted service to your carillon under all circumstances. She has a solid international career as a performer. Surely a reconsideration is in order.

Sincerely,

Jeff Davis
University Carillonneur

Cc: Jeremy Lasek



Mr Jeff Davis
University Carillanist
Department of Music
University of California, Berkeley
104 Morrison Hall #1200
United States of America

Dear Mr Davis

Thank you for your interest in the operation of the National Carillon in Canberra, Australia.

The issue is a contractual matter between Ms Magassy and the National Capital Authority and we do not intend to discuss publicly our reasons for the non-renewal of her contract.

May I wish you well and hope one day you may be able to play a guest recital at the National Carillon here. Timothy Hurd is anxious to continue to promote our successful Visiting Carillonist Program.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Lasek".

Jeremy Lasek
Director – Promotions

15 August 2002