

**JOHN GOUWENS**  
*Carillonneur, The Presbyterian Church, La Porte, Indiana*  
**Friday, July 31, 2026**

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*(NUMBERED SECTIONS WILL BE INDICATED BY THE SOUNDING OF A SINGLE BELL.)*

1. **Suite no. 4** (2009) John Courter (1941–2010)  
    **Celebration**  
    **Chanson triste**  
    **Toccata festiva**
  
2. **Four Settings of African American Spirituals** (2024) John Gouwens (b. 1957)  
    **Steal Away**  
    **A Little Talk with Jesus Makes it Right**  
    **Crucifixion (He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word)**  
    **Let Us Break Bread Together**
  
3. **Preludium II in C** (1949) Staf Nees (1901-1965)  
    **Se come voi piccina, from Le Villi** Giacomo Puccini (1838-1924), *transcribed by J. Gouwens*
  
4. **Hymn Improvisation: How Firm a Foundation** Tune from The Sacred Harp (1844)  
    **A Summer's Night** (2003) John Pozdro (1923–2009) & John Gouwens
  
5. **Milagro** (1988) Dave Grusin (b. 1934), *arranged by J. Gouwens*  
    **Jazz Ballad: Did you Ever Cross Over to Sneden's** (1947) Alec Wilder (1907-1980), *trans. Gouwens*
  
6. **Improvisation: Ellers (Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name we Raise)** Tune by Edward Hopkins (1818-1901)  
    **Sicilienne Ronde, Op. 22** (2005) John Gouwens  
    **O sole mio** Eduardo di Capua (1865–1917), *Setting by J. Gouwens*

**YOU MAY GREET THE CARILLONNEUR AFTER THE CONCERT ON THE STEPS OF THE CHAPEL.**

**John Gouwens** has served since 2019 as Organist and Choirmaster of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church and as Carillonneur of The Presbyterian Church, both in La Porte, Indiana. From 1980 to 2019, he was Organist and Carillonneur of the Culver Academies, Culver, Indiana, also serving as choir director during many of those years. He has been Carillonneur of Ball State University since that instrument was installed in 2003. A former student of Albert Gerken, he studied carillon at Indiana University, The University of Michigan, and The University of Kansas, and holds music degrees from the latter two schools. He has played recitals on many important carillons throughout the United States and Canada, including performances at copious congresses of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America (GCNA) and at a congress of the World Carillon Federation. He has made eight European concert tours, playing recitals in Germany, Poland, Denmark, Spain, France, Belgium, and The Netherlands. His playing has been broadcast in several programs of *Pipedreams*, on Public Radio International. Gouwens's organ teachers included Richard Carlson, Clyde Holloway, Robert Clark, and Robert Glasgow. He served several terms as dean of various chapters of The American Guild of Organists. He played his examination recital at the 1978 Congress of the GCNA at The University of Michigan, and has served for 43 years on the Committee for Music Publications. He also chaired the Johan Franco Composition Committee for 28 years, and served for several years on the Examination Committee. He hosted GCNA congresses at Culver in 1985 and 2004. Over the years, he has been a prizewinner in competitions for organ playing, improvisation, composition, and carillon playing. He is a prolific composer of music for carillon, and also is involved in encouraging composers to write for the instrument. He is active as a consultant on carillon installations. Gouwens is the author of two books for teaching carillonneurs: *Playing the Carillon: An Introductory Method* (now in its fifth edition) and *Campanology: A Study of Bells, with an Emphasis on the Carillon*.



Guild of Carillonneurs in North America: [www.gcna.org](http://www.gcna.org)

To watch the carillonneur perform live: [www.mcdonogh.org/carillon/](http://www.mcdonogh.org/carillon/)

*(If you would like advance notification of the **Holiday Concert** and next year's concert series, please send your **email address** to [blyonvaiden@mcdonogh.org](mailto:blyonvaiden@mcdonogh.org) )*

**[La Porte Carillon](#)**