

UCSD's Carillon To Ring Out Favorite Tunes To Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Alums, students, staff, and others can "Name That Tune" by requesting favorite songs

January 14, 2011

Dolores Davies

Does hearing Led Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love" bring back fond memories of your years as a student at UC San Diego? Does hearing Alanis Morissette belt out "You Oughta Know" remind you of strolling through the eucalyptus grove, or enjoying a cup of coffee at Café Roma? You can now satisfy your nostalgic yearnings by requesting that your favorite songs from the past and present ring out across the campus from UCSD's carillon atop Geisel Library.

During winter and spring quarters, in honor of UCSD's 50th Anniversary, Scott Paulson, the University Carillonneur and outreach coordinator for the UCSD Arts Library, will take song requests and play requested tunes on the Geisel Library carillon at noontimes. Members of the campus and surrounding communities should send their song requests to Scott Paulson at spaulson@ucsd.edu

Paulson, a UCSD alumnus (Warren, '84) and a musician known for his quirky brand of entertainment, has long taken song requests for the carillon from members of the campus and local communities. Requests have ranged from "I Want To Be Sedated" by The Ramones to Salt 'N Pepa's "Push It Real Good." He's also received requests to play theme songs from the "Twilight" movies on Robert Pattinson's birthday and was once asked to "Rick Roll" the carillon to the strains of Rick Astley's "Never Gonna Give You Up."

"UCSD does not have an official school song, but this isn't necessarily a shortcoming," said Paulson, who has been using the carillon in public and performance art projects since 1989. "No need to have one official alma mater when each person has the power to have their favorite song, whether classical, traditional or pop, ring out at noontimes."

According to Paulson, the Geisel Library chimes are surprisingly versatile, lending themselves to perennial favorites like John Lennon's "Imagine" as well as heavy metal classics such as Black Sabbath's "Iron Man."

"I will climb up the stairs to the roof of Geisel Library, go into the belfry at the stroke of noon, and play your song requests all through winter quarter and spring quarter to celebrate UCSD's 50th," said Paulson.

Throughout history, chiming bells from high towers have provided the function of telling the time and announcing civic gatherings.

UCSD's carillon, which sits atop the Geisel Library, first rang out on September 20th, 1989. The instrument was a gift from educational patron Joe Rubinger, who thought the relatively young UCSD campus would benefit from both the warmth and function of a carillon. Rubinger named the carillon the Irene Rubinger/Osher Institute for Continued Learning Memorial Carillon, after his late wife Irene with whom he founded the OICL, a UCSD Extended Studies program that fosters lifelong learning.

During the academic year, the carillon chimes on the hour from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the weekends.

Short noon concerts are featured throughout the week with Paulson playing "live" in the rooftop carillon room.

In addition to requests, new works are commissioned for the instrument several times during the year. Some of those premiere occasions include: first day of classes (Spring, Fall, & Winter Quarters) and Joe Rubinger's Birthday (June 1.)

Ranked among the nation's top 20 public academic research libraries, the UC San Diego Libraries play an integral role in advancing and supporting the university's research, teaching, and public service missions. As the intellectual heart of the UC San Diego campus, the nine university libraries provide access to more than 7 million digital and print volumes, journals, and multimedia materials to meet the knowledge and information needs of faculty, students, and members of the public. Each day, more than 7,300 patrons visit one of the UCSD libraries and more than 87,000 people access library resources through the UCSD Libraries main Web site.

Media Contact:

Dolores Davies, 858.534.0667 or ddavies@ucsd.edu

