

Perth Carillon Book

Volume 1

Music for three-octave carillon

Compiled and arranged by John R. Knox



Carillon Society of Britain and Ireland
Music Publications

Perth Carillon Book – Volume 1

Preface to the third edition

The release of new editions of the *Perth Carillon Books* coincides with the Carillon Society of Britain and Ireland's relaunch of its music publications, a large collection of compositions and arrangements mostly produced by our late and esteemed colleague John Knox, who set the highest standards for carillon music. Over his long career, firstly as carillonneur for Aberdeen, and then, after a break of over 30 years, returning as carillonneur for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, followed by Perth and Bond Street in London, John's output was prodigious. During his tenure as carillonneur for the Perth carillon, John produced a series of five carillon music books of compositions and arrangements for this instrument.

With John Knox's passing in 2021, 2022 seems a particularly apposite time to relaunch a body of carillon music much of which he either produced or inspired others to do likewise. His production of two-octave carillon music for Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Bond Street is a seminal contribution to the smaller instrument, so that now there is an appreciable body of two-octave music, including original compositions, some especially commissioned. Likewise, his output for three-octave carillons is of the same high quality.

Note on the carillon of St. John's Kirk, Perth

This splendid 35-bell carillon consists of 34 Gillett and Johnston bells installed in 1935, to match an ancient bourdon ("John the Baptist") by Peter Waghevens of Mechelen. The Gillett & Johnston clavier configuration is: C0.C3 – {C#0, D#0} & C1, so that the clavier is configured for 3 octaves in the manual with 1 octave in the pedals, with the lower two semitones missing in both manual and pedal.



Note on the range of music

The music in *Perth Carillon Book – Volume 1* is written and arranged for three-octave carillons in which the use of the two lower semitones C# and D# is not assumed. However, in spite of the one-octave limitation in the Perth carillon pedal-board, here John's music assumes the more general configuration of 1½ octaves for the pedals. This range can be expressed as: C0.C3 – {C#0, D#0} & G1, i.e., the manual range of the music is from C0 chromatically to C3, omitting C#0 and D#0, while the pedal range of the music is from C0 to G1, omitting C#0 and D#0. The music is therefore playable on a wide range of three-octave (and larger) traditional carillons.

Michael Boyd

Carillon Society of Britain and Ireland, Music Publications, June 2022.

Edition History: Perth Carillon Book – Volume 1

Edition 1: Issued January 2000. Music type-settings: hand-written by John R. Knox.

Edition 2: Issued August 2002. Music type-settings in Sibelius software by John R. Knox; re-ordering of contents.

Edition 3: Issued June 2022. New cover and preface by Michael Boyd, current Music Publications officer. References to *Carillon Society of Britain and Ireland* (replacing *British Carillon Society*) incorporated. Contents page re-edited.

Cover photograph: St. John's Kirk, Perth.

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