

St John's Kirk, Perth

The carillon at St John's Kirk is one of only a few in Scotland and consists of 35 bells cast by Gillett & Johnston. Installed in the 1930s, it is a treasured part of Perth's musical and cultural heritage. The carillon is housed in the historic tower of the city's oldest church, offering a wide dynamic range and tuneful resonance ideally suited for both classical and contemporary repertoire.

Loughborough

Loughborough is home to the War Memorial Carillon, located in Queen's Park. Built in 1923, it is the only purpose-built carillon tower in the UK and houses 47 bells. It is maintained by the Loughborough Carillon Tower and War Memorial Museum. The bells were cast by the local firm John Taylor & Co., one of the world's leading bell foundries.

Falkirk

While Falkirk itself does not currently have a full carillon, it is home to accomplished carillon performers like Tom Moyes and Richard Laing. Scotland's carillon community is closely linked, and Falkirk musicians have contributed widely to performances across the UK, particularly in Perth and Edinburgh.

Bournville

The Bournville Carillon, located at Bournville Village Green near Birmingham, was installed in 1906 by George Cadbury. It consists of 48 bells, making it one of the most complete and impressive carillons in the UK. The carillon plays regularly and forms a centrepiece of musical life in the model village created by the Cadbury family.

Newcastle upon Tyne

Newcastle does not have a full traditional carillon but has several towers with chiming bells. Carillonist Jonathan Bradley, based in Newcastle, performs widely across the UK and composes original works specifically for the instrument. His innovative programming brings modern relevance to a historic art form.

Dundee

Although Dundee does not possess a carillon tower, its bell-ringing tradition remains strong through its churches and universities. Ruth Irons has developed a distinctive repertoire inspired by local melodies, often performed on portable or visiting carillons.

Saltley (Birmingham)

Saltley has historical connections to bell music through Birmingham's wider carillon culture, particularly at Bournville. Michael Boyd, based in Saltley, frequently performs at national venues and brings with him a broad repertoire featuring European composers and British originals, some linked directly to St John's Kirk.

Thank you

We are grateful Dr Ian Cassells for organising this event and to all the carilloneurs who have come together in festive spirit, as well as the Friends of St John's Kirk of Perth and Perth and Kinross Council for their continued support for the city's carillon.



St John's Kirk, Perth

Carillon Festival



23–27 June 2025

Daily Recitals at 12 noon & 2pm

Admission FREE

Listen Outdoors for the Best Sound!

Enjoy lunch at one of Perth's surrounding cafés or restaurants while being serenaded by the bells of Scotland's finest carillon

Welcome

Join us at St John's Kirk, Perth, for five days of beautiful, powerful and historic bell music played by some of the UK's leading carillonners

featuring

Caroline Sharpe

Acclaimed carillonneur and singer, she blends vocal inspiration with bell repertoire.

Tom Moyes & Richard Laing

Musical duo from Falkirk known for liturgical and hymn-based selections.

Trevor Workman

A leading figure in UK carillon music, based at Bournville.

Ian Cassells

Perth's own carillonneur for over 30 years with a flair for history and regional music.

Jonathan Bradley

Newcastle-based composer and performer with a dynamic range from Baroque to modern.

Ruth Irons

Dundee's bell ambassador, performing music rooted in her home city.

Michael Boyd

A virtuoso player with international experience and deep ties to St John's Kirk.

MONDAY 23 JUNE

'Bells in Song'

12 noon – Caroline Sharpe (Loughborough)

A vocal-inspired programme by a prize-winning singer and carillonneur.

2pm – Tom Moyes & Richard Laing (Falkirk)

'Hymns and Psalms'

A rich menu of favourite hymns and Scottish Psalms – evocative and spiritual melodies.



TUESDAY 24 JUNE

12 noon – Trevor Workman (Bournville)

'Treasury of well-loved classics'

A treasury of well-loved classics with some unexpected extras from one of Britain's best-known carillon performers.

2pm – Ian Cassells (Perth)

'Music of Denmark'

Six centuries of distinctive Danish melodies including Buxtehude and Nielsen.

WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE

12 noon – Jonathan Bradley (Newcastle)

'Carillon Memories – 1'

A Baroque set including Dowland, Byrd, Bach and Handel.

2pm – Jonathan Bradley (Newcastle)

'Carillon Memories – 2'

Classical (especially Mozart) and contemporary compositions by the performer.

THURSDAY 26 JUNE

12 noon – Ruth Irons (Dundee)

Melodies from Dundee

Nostalgic and tuneful selections.

2pm – Ian Cassells (Perth)

'Perthshire Echoes'

A light-hearted recital of country dances and surprises.

FRIDAY 27 JUNE

12 noon & 2pm – Michael Boyd (Saltley)

'Grand Finale'

Two powerful recitals including works by French, Dutch and Spanish composers, as well as tributes to J.R. Knox and A. Skilbeck—both closely associated with St John's Kirk.