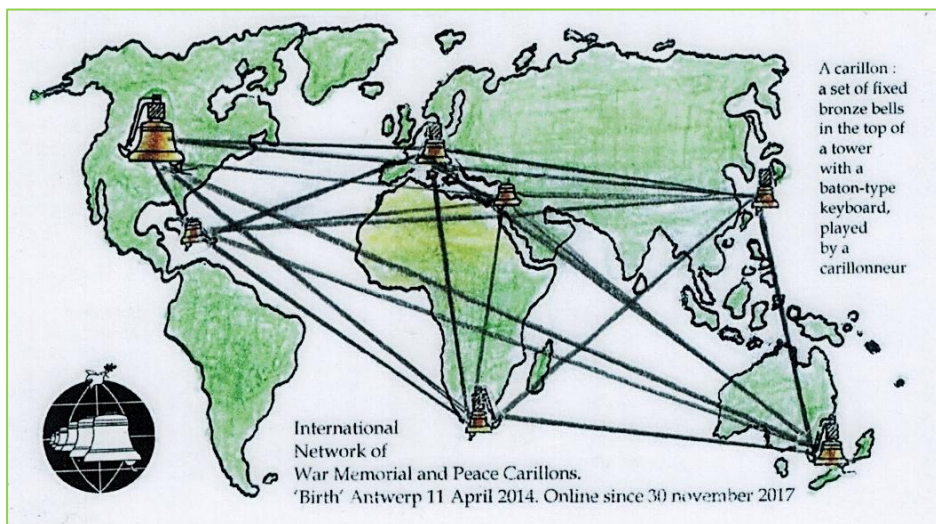




## Annual Report for 2025

### Date of birth

On April 11, 2014, an informal meeting took place in Antwerp with Ludo Geloën (Ypres), Luc Rombouts (Leuven), and Heleen van der Weel (The Hague/Wassenaar), later joined remotely by Roy Lee (Toronto). This meeting can be considered the 'birth' of the International Network of War Memorial and Peace Carillons [WMPC]. The project thus began with the pooling of ideas from four carillonneurs: to set up a network with information about carillons worldwide that serve as 'monuments in sound' to war victims, particularly from the end of the First World War on November 11, 1918. After several years of preparation, this network officially went online on November 30, 2017, at the Peace Palace (The Hague NL).



Status by January 1, 2026 - see [www.peacecarillons.org](http://www.peacecarillons.org)

### 45 War and Peace carillons as 'Monuments in sound'

**Australia** Bathurst – Sydney • **Austria** Innsbruck • **Belgium** Aarschot – Dendermonde (2) – Dinant – Eeklo – Leuven (2) – Mesen – Nieuwpoort – Ypres • **Canada** Ottawa (Ontario) – Toronto (Ont.) – Simcoe (Ont.) – Victoria (BC) • **Germany** Hamburg • **Great-Britain** Godalming – Loughborough • **Israel** Yerusalem (centre YMCA) • **Japan** Itami City (Osaka) • **New Zealand** Wellington • **Poland** Gdansk • **South-Africa** Cape Town • **The Netherlands** Amsterdam (Slotermeer) – Arnhem – Bergen (N.H.) –

*Doesburg – Heiligerlee (museum) – Meppel – Oosterbeek – Rotterdam (Townhall) – The Hague (Peace Palace) – Tilburg (Railway station) – Waalre • Curaçao Willemstad • USA Albany (NY) – Arlington (Virginia) – Gainesville (Florida) – Lawrence (Kansas) – Mercersburg (Pennsylvania) – Nashville (Tennessee) – Norwood (Massachusetts) – Rochester (Minnesota)*

Number of Countries 14

#### **Number of instruments connected with the International Network**

Europe	25
USA and Canada	13
Australia and New Zealand	3
Far East	1 (Japan: Itami City)
Near East	1 Israel (Yerusalem, centre YMCA)
South-Africa	1 (Cape Town)
Curaçao	1 (Willemstad)

### **Chronological survey of inaugurations**

#### **After World War I**

1920-1930	Rochester (USA) - more information unknown
1921-1923	Parkgate (UK) – since 2013 Godalming
1925	Cape Town (SA) – April 30
1925	Dendermonde (B) – inferior quality
1926	Mercersburg (USA) – date of inauguration oktober ?
1927	Ottawa (Can) – July 1
1927	Albany (USA) – September 18
1927	Toronto (Can) – October 6
1928	Sydney (Austr) – April 25
1928	Leuven (B) – July 4
1928	Norwood (USA) – November 11
1929	Nashville (USA) – April 12
1932	Wellington (NZ) – April 25
1933	Bathurst (Austr) – November 11
1934	Ypres (B) – date of inauguration unknown

#### **After World War II**

1947	Innsbruck (Oostenrijk) – date of inauguration unknown
1948	Rotterdam (Town hall) (NL) – August 27
1949	Meppel (NL) – April 13
1950	Waalre (NL) – September 24
1951	Lawrence (USA) – May 27
1951	Willemstad (Curaçao) – August 12
1953	Nieuwpoort (B) – May 25
1958	Arnhem (NL) – September 15
1960	Arlington (USA) – May 5
1961	Amsterdam Sloterveer (NL) – May 4
1965	Tilburg (Railway station) (NL) – October 16

1965	Doesburg (NL) – May 5
1966/1974	Oosterbeek (NL) – September 21
1968	Victoria (British Columbia) – March 9
1969	Heiligerlee (NL) – October 30
1970	Bergen (NL) – May 5
1979	Gainesville (USA) – May 14
1985	Eeklo (B) – August 18
1989	Gdansk (P) – September 1
1990	Itami (Japan) – November 9
1993	Hamburg (Ger) – June 28
1994	The Hague (NL) – November 3
1996	Messines [Mesen] (B) – June 1

#### **Installed at the occasion of ‘Commemoration 100 year World War 1914-1918’**

2014	Dinant (B) – August 23
2018	Aarschot (B) – August 19
2018	Dendermonde (B) – October 27
2018	Leuven (Park Abbey) (B) – November 11

## **Activities of WMPC in 2025**

### **Annual Report**

The annual report for 2024 was emailed to all participants in the Network on May 11, 2025. Attached was *Evocación*, from *Suite del Recuerdo* for guitar, a work by Argentine guitarist José Luis Merlin in memory of the victims of the military regime in Argentina, in a carillon arrangement by Luc Rombouts.

### **WMPC 2025**

On November 28, a first discussion took place at the Peace Palace with the aim of establishing a legal basis for the Network within the Peace Palace. Mr. Andrew Carnegie was not only concerned with issues of war and peace, but also with musical projects. He not only financed the construction or restoration of more than fifty organs in the USA, but also realized the construction and opening of Carnegie Hall in New York. He was probably not familiar with the carillon as a musical instrument since the first War Memorial Carillon was put into use in Parkgate (UK) between 1921 and 1923, after his death in 1919.

The network, formally presented at the Peace Palace on November 30, 2017, ties in with the commemoration of war victims, the themes of war and peace, and the experience of "moments of peace" during carillon performances, anywhere in the world.

### **Compositions, emailed to participants within the Network:**

1. March 25: Overview for all in honor of 10 years of WMPC (2014-2024). Included is an arrangement of the short piano piece *Sorrow* by composer/pianist Bela Bartok (1881-1945), adapted by Luc Rombouts for 3- or 4-octave carillon.

2. September 10: Three arrangements to be used on September 21 (United Nations, International Day of Peace). The song *A Different Way, a Song for Peace* written and sung by the Jerusalem Youth Choir, which includes Palestinians and Israelis. It was arranged for carillon by the Australian carillonneur Thomas Laue.
3. In December 2025: this time not a 'Year-end arrangement' was issued, but a New Year's greeting by the three coordinators of the WMPC (J. Wieringa, L. Rombouts, and H.v.d.Weel).



**Earth**

**Fire**

**Air**

**Water**

**The bell is a wonder of the four elements:  
It is formed in earth  
It is born in fire  
It is consecrated in water  
And finds its destiny in the air.**

**We wish you a musical and peaceful 2026 !**

### **Suggestions from others for compositions that could potentially be used**

1. April 1: email from the carillonneur of Axel and Sluis (Piet Hamelink) about a potentially useful composition he found via IMSLP entitled *The Chimes of Liberty*, written by Edwin Franko Goldman.
2. April 24: email from Isaac Wong, carillonneur of The Sydney University War Memorial Carillon, about a collection, *Music for Peace. Edition*, by the Carillon Society of Australia, of which he is president.
3. August 20: email from Thomas Laue (Australia) regarding arrangements to be used by the WMPC.

## **Carillons - new to the Network**

Nieuwpoort (B).

1. See the information at [www.peacecarillons.org](http://www.peacecarillons.org) (files After World War II)
2. Email dated September 1 regarding the Nieuwpoort Carillon Association / Newsletter. It reported that the program was based on the commemorative collection Peace music for carillon, published in 2020 by WMPC to mark 1945-2020 (end of WW II and establishment of the UN). This newsletter also contained information about the inclusion of the Nieuwpoort carillon in the WMPC list/website.

## **Carillons - other messages**

### **1. Ottawa**

19 maart 2025: mail from Andrea McCrady (carillonneur of the Parliament buildings / Peace Tower) in Ottawa) about *Peace Bell in New Zealand & News from Canada*.

2. July 16/15. Email from Andrea McCrady. She wrote an article in the *Newsletter of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America* about the 100th anniversary of the *Norfolk War Memorial Carillon*. It included a nice video. This email also contained a reference to *Bells for Peace* (Martin Bonadeo).>

### **3. Amsterdam**

October 18: Question via Jacobine from Sanni Overweg. At the time, she was working on a mini podcast episode about the freedom carillon on Plein 40-45. The Freedom Carillon is located there (in use since May 4, 1965 – see website). Reference was made to the current carillonneur Mathieu Daniël Polak.

### **4. Cape Town**

The carillon in Cape Town was inaugurated on April 30, 1925. From March 21 onwards, Luc Rombouts and Cape Town carillonneur Alexios Vicatos exchanged emails about this on April 4, 11, 13, and 16. The anniversary was celebrated with a special concert.

### **5. Wellington**

December: Email contact with carillonneur Tim Hurt regarding proposed budget cuts in Australia Wellington from three times a week to just once a year on Anzac Day. A letter was sent, signed by Heleen van der Weel, Jacobine Wieringa, Luc Rombouts, Monika Kazmierczak, and Alexios Vicatos.

### **6. Gainesville USA**

The Peace Carillon in the Century Tower of the University of Florida was fitted with a new set of clappers in the bells in 2025 (information from the 2026 New Year's card with activities in 2025 by bell foundry Royal Eijsbouts (Asten NL)).

### **Mailings (by Heleen van der Weel)**

For the eighth time, a laminated calendar card (175 copies) for December 2025 was sent to affiliated participants (players and/or managers of the carillons). The calendar card is also available at the Peace Palace for anyone interested. Some say it is no longer 'of this time': information can be found quickly on the phone. But the reverse side of the card provides information about/references to the WMPC – and that is the starting point.

### **Website / maintenance**

The website was modified and/or improved where necessary by Jacobine Wieringa (Peace Palace NL).

### **Emails / translations**

All translations into English were done by Luc Rombouts (Leuven, Belgium), who also maintained email contact with Wendy Murphy (Australia), the Jerusalem UMCA office, and the Netherlands Carillon (Arlington), among others.

### **Publication**

**Work is underway to add even more 'monuments in sound'.**

**Comments and suggestions are welcome at [luc.rombouts@telenet.be](mailto:luc.rombouts@telenet.be).**

The Hague/Leuven March 2026

WMPC – coördinators

Luc Rombouts (Leuven B)

Heleen van der Weel (Wassenaar/The Hague NL) (annual report)

Jacobine Wieringa (Den Haag NL)

