



Backgrounder

Major Development Project of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal

The Oratory's impressive carillon



History

- The 56 bronze bells that originally made up the carillon were cast by the Paccard Foundry, a French company founded in 1796, renowned for its expertise in bell-making and the craft of bell-ringing
- Initially intended for the Eiffel Tower, the carillon was loaned to Saint Joseph's Oratory in 1955 for its 50th anniversary
- The entire set of bells was generously offered to the Oratory as a gift
- The only traditional carillon in the province, it is an important element of Quebec's heritage



Restoration

- The original set of bells was restored from 2019 to 2023 by the Paccard Foundry in France
- Six new bells were added to the 56, including a bourdon, the largest bell with a unique deep sound
- The 62 bells form an instrument weighing nearly 19,000 kg
- The keyboard and the transmission system to the bells were also completely reconstructed



Today: A musical instrument in a class of its own

- In 2023, the *bronze daughters* were integrated into the Oratory's new campanile, along with several *big sisters*
- Now fully restored, the carillon offers significantly improved performances, and the addition of six bells has expanded its musical repertoire
- The magnificent sounds of the carillon are produced by the clappers of the bells, which remain fixed in place

Pictures available upon request