

Mathieu Daniël Polak – List of Compositions for Carillon

Introduction

This list of works contains a selection of my compositions for carillon, mainly from carillon books published by me. Most of these publications can be downloaded for free from the webshop of Carillon Center Netherlands in Amersfoort and from my website, www.mathieudanielpolak.com.

In addition to original compositions, the books mentioned also contain arrangements of existing music. These works are not included in this list. The list focuses exclusively on compositions that were created as original compositions for carillon.

Published carillon books

- Voorslag (2003) - Carillon education
- Het Speelboek (2004) - Carillon education and repertoire
- Godesberg Suite (2018) – two professional carillonneurs together
- Koudounia (2017) - Greek music
- Chag Sameach (2019) - Jewish music
- Mazzeltov (2021) - Jewish music
- The Big Apple (2021) - Music about New York
- Momo (2023) - novice and professional carillonneur together
- The Italian Book of Bells (2024) - Music for Small Size
- Journey as Destination (2025) - Research and compositions
- The Story of Sterre (2025) - Carillon solo, quatre-mains and with youth orchestra
- The Orient Express (2026) - The countries of the train journey in music
- From Branle to Scherzo (2026) - research and carillon music

Voorslag (2003) published on the occasion of 50 years of the Dutch Carillon School.

Exercises and methodical compositions for novice carillonneurs. Edition: Carillon Center Netherlands. *Voorslag* is frequently used in preparatory education and amateur education and is one of the methodical publications in my work as a carillon teacher.

Het Speelboek (2004)

Compositions for carillon solo and quatre-mains, educational pieces with titles such as *Vogel ziet Zich in Vijver* and *Etudes for pedal playing*. Bought by carillon students and performed on the carillon of the Belgian monument in Amersfoort and on the carillon of the Erasmus University Rotterdam. Performance *Will it rain Today?* Carillon St. Catharina, Gdansk (Poland): https://youtu.be/NGcD49o_40E?si=giBoOLKtO_IsuQWw

Bells Change the World (2010)

Commissioned by the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, based on *Gaudeamus Igitur*. Performance: annually at the Dies of Erasmus University Rotterdam. Performance of the Belgian Monument in Amersfoort by Mathieu Polak: <https://youtu.be/x3-bCdif9w0?si=7jqf-TXhATxsOom>

Mer de Larmes (2011)

In memory of the victims of the 2011 tsunami; dedicated to Mari Norisada. Publisher: Donemus / Muziek Centrum Nederland. Video *Mer de Larmes*, performed at Erasmus University by Mathieu Polak: <https://youtu.be/9Wn4X1cYtuc?si=l8vClGkpcUCKh3mf>

Koudounia, Greek music for carillon (2017)

Petit Sirtaki, carillon solo. Performed at many of own concerts and market performances at home and abroad.

Dandelion Field (2017)

Special feature: second prize, Johan Franco Composition. Composed for the passing of sister.

Golden Clouds (2017)

The work arose from an artistic exchange with visual artist Joost de Jonge, who, after hearing *Dandelion Field*, associated the image of "golden clouds" with the music and then exchanged a new work for carillon and painting. Performance by Mathieu Polak in Amersfoort, Onze Lieve Vrouwetoren: <https://youtu.be/aySsJalkxLs?si=FHAogOuKHSBoUPvM>

Et je danse / And I Dance (2018)

Reason: written for a festival in Perpignan; inspired by Arthur Rimbaud's *Phrases*. Edition: American Carillon Music Editions (ACME), 2018.

Performance on the carillon of Vianen by Mathieu Polak: <https://youtu.be/dITLPdOPJO8?si=HmGQKNNxw35alLrT>

Godesberg Suite (2018)

Commissioned by Georg Wagner. Suite for two carillonneurs. Performed by Georg Wagner and Ariane Toffel on the carillon of Bad Godesberg, the carillon of Bonn Beuel and on the carillon of Rhenen and Nijkerk. The compositions are written for smaller, two-octave carillons without pedal and are partly aimed at education and performance practice. Performance on the carillon of the Cuneratoren Rhenen by Georg Wagner and Ariane Toffel:

https://youtu.be/j96lBwzA_NM?si=uNykMK7yBeJ5tnJU

A Butterfly's Dance (2019)

Special feature: first prize, Johan Franco Composition Competition, Guild of Carillonneurs in North America. Composed for marriage.

Tinbergen Variations (2019)

Commissioned by the Erasmus University on the occasion of the 106th Dies Natalis, solo carillon. Video, interview about the piece:

https://youtu.be/3Jyf6XndNzl?si=dqV2rMrXT_o_vtma

Chag Sameach (2019)

Solo compositions and quatre-mains works, premiered by Boudewijn Zwart on the carillon of the Westertoren in Amsterdam. Titles including: *Ha Shofar*, *Tishrei*, *Sh'ma Koleinu*, *Vidui*, *Chanukiah*. This book was awarded the Visser Neerlandia Prize (2020). The commission was made possible by the Fund for the Performing Arts. Performance of *Vidui* by Boudewijn Zwart during the award ceremony Visser Neerlandia in Turnhout:

<https://youtu.be/JBMtaJYke2E?si=MIwkmM3BO2xzxmv3>

The Woerden Suite (2019)

Suite for two carillonneurs on the travelling carillon and a tower carillonneur. Composed on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Henk Verhoef as city carillonneur of Woerden. Performance in Hanover, garden of the Henrietten Stiftung by Georg Wagner, Ariane Toffel and Jessica Simonetti: <https://youtu.be/uwQzAiDIEPU?si=tVIGg-sqFomycHTU>

Mazzeltov (2021)

Own compositions including titles such as: *Remembrance, Kinder Tantsn, Bells of Ashkenaz for Winnie*. The book was made possible by a stipend from the Performing Arts Fund NL. Premiere by Frank Steijns on the carillons of the City Hall in Maastricht and the Sint Servaas in Maastricht. The book also includes carillon with saxophone/clarinet and violin. These were performed at the Belgian monument in Amersfoort by Mathieu Polak (carillon), Sylvia Houtzager (violin) and Lior Kuperberg (saxophone/clarinet).

Performance of the quatre-mains piece *Under the Chuppah* on the carillon of St. Catharina in Gdansk by Laura Marie Rueslatten and Mathieu Polak:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/A94flrXF0Es?si=pAW9f4E6vrzCTtwz>

Performance *Bells of Ashkenaz* for Winnie by Boudewijn Zwart, Westertoren:

<https://youtu.be/WZowNoE4fOs?si=IHRxz-Yj8AZpWYUa>

The Big Apple (2021)

The Sweet Apples Suite (2021) (revision 2026). Six-part suite for carillon solo, performed on Composer's Day 2026, Speeltoren Monnickendam by carillonneur Henk Verhoef. Video, third part: <https://youtube.com/shorts/icnjbnEvxAY?si=C53Bai445NrGium>

Composition in Colour (2022)

Inspired by the work of Piet Mondrian. Performed by Gijsbert Kok in The Hague, Wim Ruessink in Winterswijk and Mathieu Polak in Amersfoort. Performed by Alex Johnson, Chicago University: <https://youtu.be/H7AJO61BC5w?si=dJTDIJAHHXEoOfm9>

Momo (2023)

Book commissioned by the Museum für Zeit, Rockenhausen (Germany). In the book short quatre-mains compositions for professional carillonneur with novice carillonneur.

Performance in the summer of 2023 in Rockenhausen. The compositions in the book illustrate the children's book of the same name by Michael Ende. Performances of it also on the carillons of Almere, Amersfoort, Erasmus University, Hannover. Implementation of Vorspiel at Erasmus University Rotterdam:

<https://youtu.be/5zpluEGto5Q?si=NldlaP9VWvmdG3o3>

The Italian Book of Bells (2024)

Short compositions performed on various carillons in northern Italy by carillonneur Mattia Malzani. Some titles: *Ballata per Campane, Sonata di San Andrea, Bagatella all'italiana, La Liberta*. Special feature: the suite for Italian carillons was awarded third prize at the World's Best Musician Competition in Warsaw in 2024.

Performance Bagatella all'italiana in Pompiano (Northern Italy): <https://youtu.be/dd4-5MPAvaE?si=T10GaqBXMwyj3zl3>

Journey as Destination (2025)

Doina (2025) for carillon solo. Performed by carillonneur Mathieu Polak on the Day of the Composer 2025 at the City Hall of Maastricht. Recording *Doina*:

<https://youtu.be/rDUTxcckhEI?si=d9neIpcFLnRLe5VE>

Journey as Destination (2025)

Winter Gift & Children's Game, two quatre-mains pieces for carillon performed by Frank Steijns and Mathieu Polak at the City Hall of Maastricht. Moreover, performed by Christian Michel and Mathieu Polak on the carillon of the Henrietten Stiftung in Hanover 2026.

The Story of Sterne' (2025)

Collection of my own compositions for a children's story. Pieces for carillon solo and quatre-mains as well as carillon and trumpet and carillon with youth orchestra. Performance on the Park Carillon and in the listening garden of the Salvation Army in Nieuwegein by, among others, carillonneurs Dick van Dijk and Mathieu Polak, youth orchestra conducted by Gerard Poot, summer 2025. Part of the performance:

<https://youtu.be/Q7Hka6AojOo?si=h7PqhkADVA6c627w>

The Orient Express (2026)

Cud Nad Wisla & Polka, two solo pieces for carillon. The Orient Express is distributed among carillonneurs in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Ireland, Japan, Australia and the United Kingdom. Performances of *Cud Nad Wisla & Polka* during various market performances including Almere, Amersfoort, Rotterdam, Spakenburg by Mathieu Polak.

From Branle to Scherzo (2026)

Minuet and Scherzo for carillon solo. Performed during summer concerts on the carillons of Weesp and Veere by carillonneur Mathieu Daniël Polak, summer 2026. The book was made possible by a stipend from the Performing Arts Fund NL.