

The Bells of Minneapolis City Hall and Hennepin County Courthouse

A carillon consists of at least 23 cast bronze bells, whereas a chime has between 8 and 22 bells. Carillons are designed for fully chromatic, complex musical performances played via a manual keyboard, while chimes are typically used for simpler melodic patterns or tunes. Since there are 15 bells at City Hall, the bells are officially called a chime.

Bell No. 1 - middle C



Weight (lb.): 7,283

Diameter (in.): 68

Year cast: 1895

Foundry: Meneely Bell Co., Troy, N.Y.

True note: Bb below middle C

Inscription:

This building was erected by the Board of Court House and City Hall Commission organized April 25, 1887 Commissioners Geo. A. Brackett Jno. DeLaittre John C. Oswald Wm. S. Chowen Oliver T. Erickson Lars Swenson David M. Clough Edward M. Johnson John Swift Edgar F. Comstock Titus Mareck Wm. D. Washburn Charles P. Preston, Secretary Architects Frank B. Long --- Frederick Kees.

Meneely Bell Co, Troy, N.Y. USA A.D. 1895

Bell No. 2 - D above middle C



Weight (lb.): 5,400

Diameter (in.): 64

Year cast: 1895

Foundry: Meneely Bell Co., Troy, N.Y.

True note: Middle C

Inscription:

Meneely Bell Co, Troy, N.Y. USA A.D. 1895

Bell No. 3 - E above middle C



Weight (lb.): 3,780

Diameter (in.): 56

Year cast: 1895

Foundry: Meneely Bell Co., Troy, N.Y.

True note: D above middle C

Inscription:

Meneely Bell Co, Troy, N.Y. USA A.D. 1895

Bell No. 4 - F above middle C



Weight (lb.): 3,240

Diameter (in.): 52.5

Year cast: 1895

Foundry: Meneely Bell Co., Troy, N.Y.

True note: D# above middle C

Inscription:

Meneely Bell Co, Troy, N.Y. USA A.D. 1895

Bell No. 5 - F# above middle C



Weight (lb.): 2,556

Diameter (in.): 49

Year cast: 1924

Foundry: Meneely Bell Co., Troy, N.Y

True note: E above middle C

Inscription:

Donated by the Edward M. and Effie R.

Johnson Foundation 1923

Trustees

Mary Case Barney

William C. Johnson

Samuel E. Forest

Meneely Bell Co, Troy, N.Y. USA A.D. 1924

Bell No. 6 - G above middle C



Weight (lb.): 2,160

Diameter (in.): 46

Year cast: 1895

Foundry: Meneely Bell Co., Troy, N.Y.

True note: F above middle C

Inscription:

The granite work of this building was begun by James Baxter and completed by his son William C. Baxter who has donated this bell in memory of his father.

Meneely Bell Co, Troy, N.Y. USA A.D. 1895

Bell No. 7 - A above middle C



Weight (lb.): 1,620

Diameter (in.): 42

Year cast: 1895

Foundry: Meneely Bell Co., Troy, N.Y.

True note: G above middle C

Inscription:

The gift of the Pioneer Fireproof Construction Co., the contractors for fire proofing upon this building.

Meneely Bell Co, Troy, N.Y. USA A.D. 1895

Bell No. 8 - Bb above middle C



Weight (lb.): 1,296

Diameter (in.): 39

Year cast: 1895

Foundry: Meneely Bell Co., Troy, N.Y.

True note: G# above middle C

Inscription:

Gift of Edward Haglin and Charles F Haglin Jr.
A.D. 1895

Meneely Bell Co, Troy, N.Y. USA A.D. 1895

Bell No. 9 - B above middle C



Weight (lb.): 1,080

Diameter (in.) 37

Year cast: 1895

Foundry: Meneely Bell Co., Troy, N.Y.

True note: A above middle C

Inscription:

Presented by Mr. Louis L Long and Miss Jessie Long, who have assisted in the erection of this building by preparing architecture drawings in the office of Long & Kees Architects. Minneapolis, A.D. 1895.

Meneely Bell Co, Troy, N.Y. USA A.D. 1895

Bell No. 10 - high C



Weight (lb.): 864

Diameter (in.): 33.5

Year cast: 1895

Foundry: Meneely Bell Co., Troy, N.Y.

True note: A# above middle C

Inscription:

The gift of Elsa Louise Kees, daughter of Frederick Kees. A.D. 1895

Meneely Bell Co, Troy, N.Y. USA A.D. 1895

Bell No. 11 - C# above high C



Weight (lb.): 704

Diameter (in.): 31

Year cast: 1972

Foundry: Petit & Fritzen Bellfoundry, Aarle-Rixtle, Holland

True note: B above middle C

Inscription:

Petit & Fritzen Bellfoundry, Aarle-Rixtle,
Holland 5742

Bell No. 12 - D above high C



Weight (lb.): 594

Diameter (in.): 30.5

Year cast: 1895

Foundry: Meneely Bell Co., Troy, N.Y.

True note: High C

Inscription:

The gift of Sarah M. Preston, daughter of
Chas. P. Preston. A.D. 1895

Meneely Bell Co, Troy, N.Y. USA A.D. 1895

Bell No. 13 - E above high C



Weight (lb.): 453

Diameter (in.): 27

Year cast: 1924

Foundry: Meneely Bell Co., Troy, N.Y.

True note: D - E above high C

Inscription:

We the pupils of the Minneapolis Public Schools give this bell that The Star Spangled Banner may say to our citizens liberty and peace for all.

Meneely Bell Co, Troy, N.Y. USA A.D. 1924

Bell No. 14 - F above high C



Weight (lb.): 387

Diameter (in.): 26

Year cast: 1924

Foundry: Meneely Bell Co., Troy, N.Y.

True note: D# above high C

Inscription:

This bell given as a testimonial to J.H. Auld, municipal chime player, whose efforts made possible the four additional bells which were erected. A.D. 1924

Donated by Public Spirited Citizens.

Meneely Bell Co, Troy, N.Y. USA A.D. 1924

Bell No. 15 - G above high C



Weight (lb.): 285

Diameter (in.): 23

Year cast: 1924

Foundry: Meneely Bell Co., Troy, N.Y.

True note: F above middle C

Inscription:

In memory of D. Draper Dayton 1880-1923.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things
and I will be his God and he shall be my son.

Meneely Bell Co, Troy, N.Y. USA A.D. 1924

Sources of the bell weights:

Bells no. 1, 5, 13, 14, and 15 are from Meneely Bell Co. records.

Bell no. 11 is from Petit & Fritzen Bellfoundry records.

Bells no. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 are from an estimate by Meeks, Watson & Co., adjusted based on total weight of the original 10 bells per Meneely Bell Co. records.

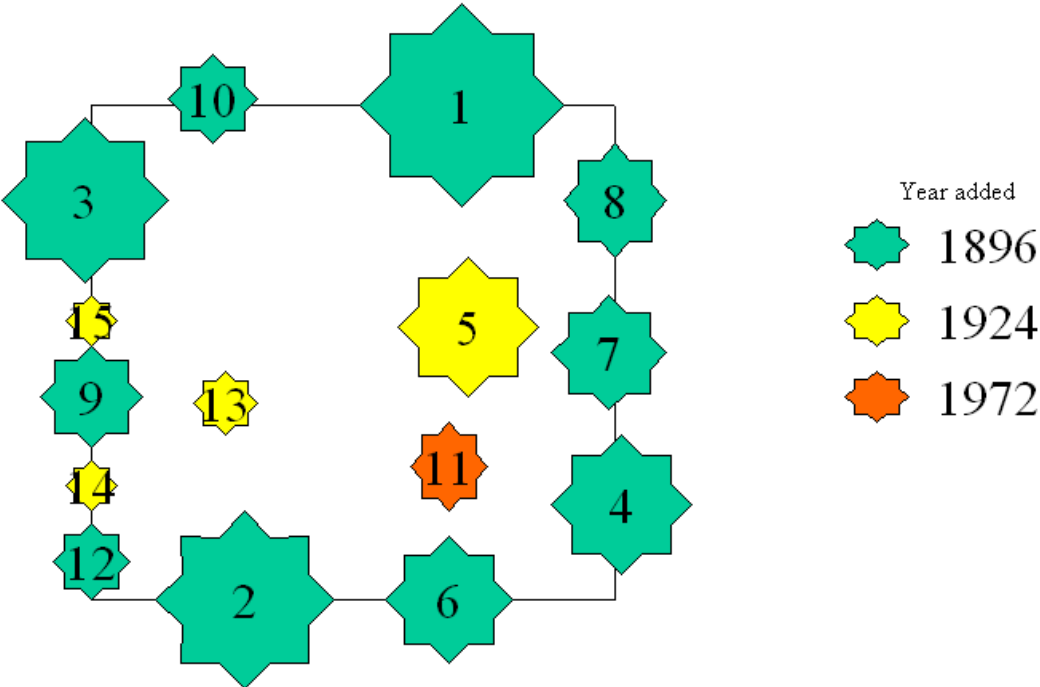
The total weight of all 15 bells is about 32,000 pounds.

True Notes:

The true notes of each bell are based on an analysis in 1993 by The Verdin Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. The Verdin Company was supplied a recording of each bell to perform the analysis.

Layout of the Bells in the Belfry:

4TH STREET



The Keyboard:

Beginning in 1896, bell players would actually play the bells from the belfry, but since 1971 bell players have played in the rotunda of Minneapolis City Hall, using a small keyboard that has only 24 keys with only 15 of the keys operating, corresponding to the 15 bells. The keyboard plugs into a special outlet just inside the half-door of the security guard desk. Once the keyboard is plugged in, that prevents the bell tower clock from chiming on the quarter hours. There is a speaker under the keyboard where the bell player can hear the bells while they are played.

