



# The Campanile and the Bells

**Artist:** Nina Roos

**Location:** Kompanigården

**Year:** 2025

The Kampanilen, the bell tower with its carillon, has stood at Kompanigården since 1971. The bell tower underwent an artistic facade change in 2025 and artist Nina Roos's work Klang now adorns the facade.

## The Campanile

The campanile was originally a donation from the Agda and Herman Järnhardt Foundation to the city of Malmö. The Järnhardts wanted to beautify the city with a carillon. It was one of the largest concert carillons in Northern Europe when it was inaugurated. The bell tower was designed by architect Sture Kelfve, who also designed the extension to the City Hall, which was previously the seat of the District Court. Originally, the tower was intended to be clad in the same marble as the old District Court and have an artistic design between the first and second floors.

However, it took a long time for the city of Malmö to decide to accept the donation, from 1960 when the offer was made to 1971 when the campanile was completed with its carillon. The artist Ivar Johnsson had been commissioned, but when the deadline came, he declined due to age and health. Sture Kelfve then redesigned the tower to the appearance it has had until the fall of 2025, with

natural anodized aluminum as the facade cladding and wire-reinforced window glass in a single aluminum section.

During 2018–2019, the clock tower was renovated and asbestos removed.

Subsequently, electrical playing equipment with automatic control was installed, making it possible to schedule and remotely control the carillon's playing. The equipment was paid for by the Malmö Beautification and Planting Association.

### **The chimes**

The carillon spans four octaves and consists of 48 ore bells and includes a diatonic base with the strike tones  $g^1$ ,  $a^1$ ,  $b^1$  and then in chromatic tone sequence up to and including the smallest bell with the strike tone  $g^5$ . The heaviest bell  $g^1$  weighs 636 kg and the smallest  $g^5$  weighs 7.5 kg. In total, the bells weigh 4,044 kg. The bells were cast at NV Petit & Fritsen Klokkengieterij, Aarle-Rixtel, the Netherlands.

For the carillon, the Järnhardt Foundation commissioned a poem by the author Anders Österling. It can be found today on the west side of the bell tower.

The foundation also commissioned two melodies for the carillon from composer Hilding Rosenberg.

### **New melodies for the carillon 2021**

In a collaboration between Musik i Syd and Malmö Förskönings- och Planteringsförening in 2021, four composers were commissioned to write new works for the carillon, which are played every Saturday at 12 noon on a rolling schedule.

The composers are: Anna-Lena Laurin with *The Bells of Malmö* ; Staffan Storm with *The Carillon of Malmö* ; Nathan Larsson with *Scherzo 4 Large Bells* ; Nadin al Khalidi with *Lilith* .

### **Artistic facade change 2025**

In 2025, the Campanile, the bell tower itself, underwent an artistic facade change. Artist Nina Roos won the sketch competition and her artwork *Klang* now adorns the ground floor and extends through the color of the windows and metal

sheets up to the roof. The artwork is made of precast concrete elements and then painted.

The window sections have been replaced and have glass that will reproduce the experience of the previous wire-reinforced glass. The clock tower has also received a much-needed overhaul on the inside. The artistic facade change is a collaboration between Stadsfastigheter, the City of Malmö, and the Malmö Beautification and Planting Association.

### **The Campanile and the Carillon**

The Campanile, a bell tower with a carillon, has been located in Kompanigården since 1971. It was donated to the city of Malmö by the Agda and Herman Järnhardt Foundation. The Järnhardts wanted to beautify the city with a carillon. When it was inaugurated, it was one of Northern Europe's largest concert carillons.

### **The Campanile**

The bell tower was designed by architect Sture Kelfve, who also designed the extension to the Town Hall, which previously housed the District Court. Initially, the walls of the tower were intended to be covered in the same marble as the old District Court and feature an artistic design between the first and second floors. However, it took a long time for the City of Malmö to decide to accept the donation, from 1960 when the offer was made to 1971 when the campanile was completed with its carillon. The artist Ivar Johnsson had been commissioned for the work, but when it was delayed, he declined due to his age and health. Sture Kelfve then redesigned the tower, featuring naturally anodised aluminum covering the facade and wire-reinforced window glass in a simple aluminum section.

In 2018–2019, the clock tower was renovated, and asbestos was removed.

After that, electrical equipment for playing music with automatic control was installed. This enables the scheduling and remote control of the bells. The Malmö Beautification and Plantingsförening covered the cost of the equipment.

### **The Carillon**

The carillon spans four octaves and consists of 48 bronze bells, comprising a diatonic bass with the notes  $g^1$ ,  $a^1$ ,  $b^1$  and then in chromatic sequence up to the smallest bell with the note  $g^5$ . The heaviest bell,  $g^1$ , weighs 636 kg and the smallest,  $g^5$ , weighs 7.5 kg. In total, the bells weigh 4,044 kg. The bells were cast at NV Petit & Fritsen Klokkengieterij, Aarle-Rixtel, Netherlands.

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### **New melodies for the carillon in 2021**

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### **Artistic facade change in 2025**

In 2025, the Campanile, the bell tower itself, underwent an artistic facade change. Artist Nina Roos won the sketch competition, and her artwork, *Klang* , now adorns the ground floor, extending through the color of the windows and sheet metal up to the roof. The artwork is composed of prefabricated concrete elements that are then painted.

The windows have been replaced and feature glass that recreates the look of the previous wired glass. The bell tower has also undergone a much-needed interior renovation. The artistic facade change is a collaboration between Stadsfastigheter, the City of Malmö, and Malmö Förskönings- och Planteringsförening.