# Visit to the University Library Carillon

## Bells, Belfries & Benelux: The Carillon in the Low Countries and the World

- *An IEEE Legacy –*




*Dr. Luc Rombouts, University Carillonneur, KU Leuven*
*Followed by a guided tour of the carillon tower*

## 3 December 2026 12:00

## University Library KULeuven (B)

Join the IEEE Benelux Section Life Member Affinity Group for a unique journey through music, history, and engineering. The University Library of Leuven, twice destroyed in the World Wars and rebuilt with American aid, is home to one of Europe's largest and finest carillons: 63 bells weighing 35 metric tons, including the seven-ton Liberty Bell that chimes the hour. This carillon is a monument to the 1,792 American engineers who died in Europe during the First World War, donated by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers – which in 1963 became the IEEE. Dr. Luc Rombouts, University Carillonneur at KU Leuven, will trace the history and development of the carillon in the Low Countries and the world, exploring how this instrument became a symbol of resilience and transatlantic friendship. After the lecture, Dr. Rombouts will guide us up the tower, introduce us to the instrument, and give a demonstration—witnessing a concert from behind the scenes. A rare blend of heritage, music, and IEEE history awaits.

## Introduction of the Host

**Dr. Luc Rombouts** (KU Leuven) is a Belgian carillonneur and author, serving as city carillonneur of Tienen and official carillonneur of both KU Leuven carillons -the University Library and the Groot Begijnhof- as well as Park Abbey. He has performed concerts across Europe and the United States. Dr. Rombouts teaches carillon playing and campanology at the Royal Carillon School 'Jef Denyn' at Mechelen. His 2010 reference book, "*Zingend Brons*", on five centuries of carillon music in the Low Countries and the New World, earned the Visser-Neerlandia Prize. The English edition, "*Singing Bronze*", was published in 2014.

## Program

- 12:00 Welcome & small sandwich lunch
- 13:00 Lecture by Dr. Rombouts
- 14:30 Tour and demonstration in the carillon tower
- 15:30 Official 2026 IEEE Region 8 Award Handover by R8 Director Prof. Dusanka Boskovic, R8 Life Member Chair Prof. Péter Magyar and R8 History Activity Coordinator Prof. Martin J. Bastiaans.
    - *Life Member Individual Service Award*
        - recipient: Prof. dr. ir. Rik W. De Doncker,
    - *LMAG Life Member Affinity Group Achievement Award*
        - recipient: Benelux Section Life Member Affinity Group

## Registration

Participation to this event is free of charge for IEEE LMAG members. Other participants registration fee: 30 Euro. Please register by preference online: https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/584837 or by sending an email to LMAG secretary: prof. Kees van 't Klooster C.G.v.t.Klooster@tue.nl before 27 November 2026. For safety reasons, the number of participants in the bell tower is limited to 30. Registrations will be handled in a first come first serve principle with priority for IEEE LMAG members.

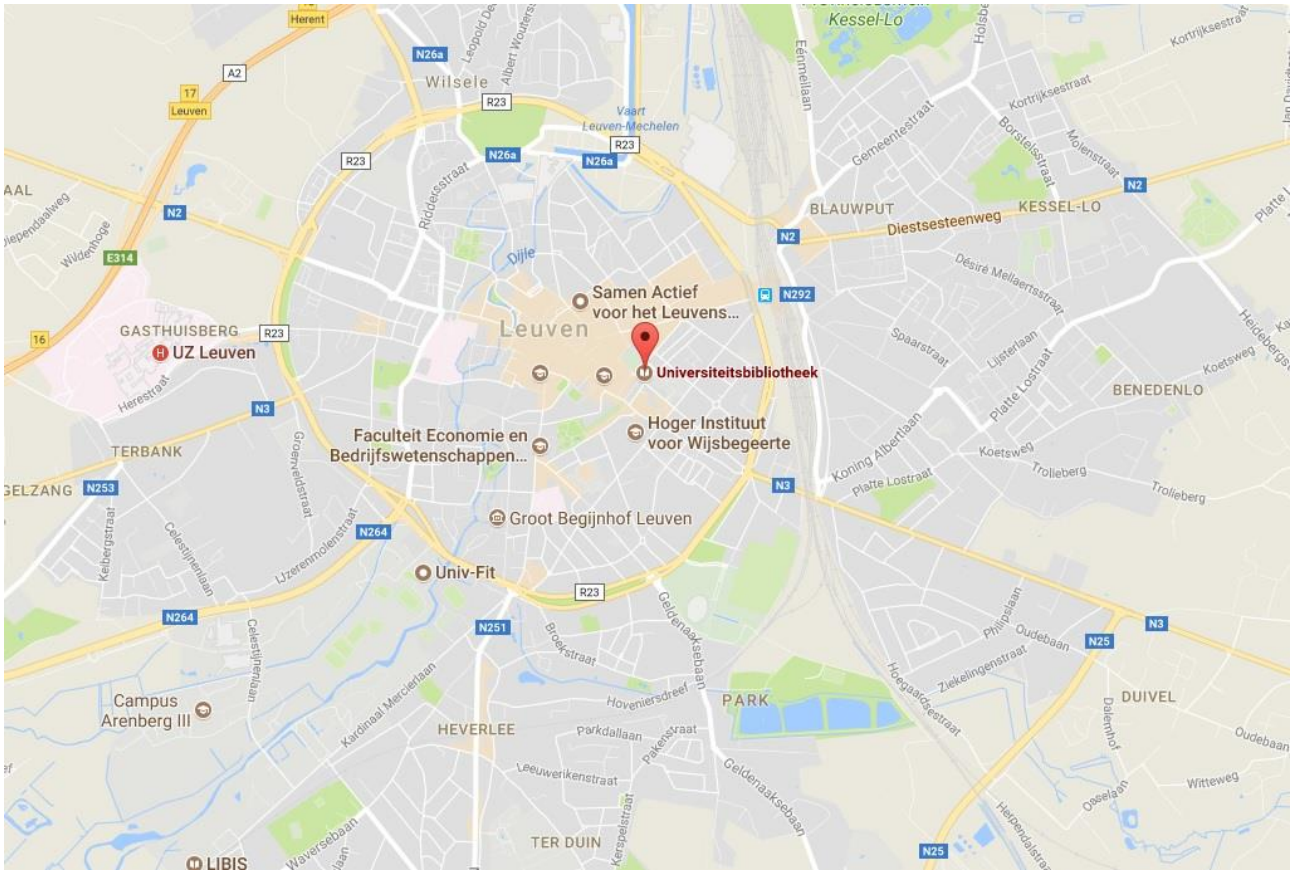
In this event, pictures and videos could be recorded for use in reports and publications on the event and IEEE LMAG activities. In case you do not agree to be photographed or appear on videos recorded, please indicate this explicitly together with this registration via email to the IEEE Benelux Section LMAG secretary: Kees van 't Klooster C.G.v.t.Klooster@tue.nl at least one day before the event starts.

## Location

KULeuven
Universiteitsbibliotheek en bibliotheektoren
Monseigneur Ladeuzeplein 21
3000 Leuven
(The exact meeting place will be communicated by the LMAG secretary)

## How to get to the KU Leuven University Library and Library Tower?

See: https://bib.kuleuven.be/english/about/index/contact




The University Library is located at the Mgr. Ladeuzeplein, on walking distance from the train station, the Rector De Somerplein and the Grote Markt. You can park your car in the underground parking of the Mgr. Ladeuzeplein, right in front of the building.

## Parking Ladeuze

More info and pricing: https://www.leuven.be/parkings/nl/wagens/parking-ladeuze

