

An All-American Bell and Clock Company is Turning 175

The Verdin Company to celebrate milestone with factory tours and organ and bells performance

CINCINNATI, OH – The oldest family-owned business in Ohio is turning 175 this year, and inviting the nation to celebrate with them on September 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Verdin foundry.

<u>The Verdin Company</u> is a world-renowned, sixth-generation family manufacturer of cast bronze bells, carillons, clocks and towers and the inventors of the first electric bell ringer in America. The Smithsonian Institute, Walt Disney World and the World Peace Bell are just three of the 55,000 installations that display Verdin's unparalleled craftsmanship.

The Verdin Company is recognizing their milestone anniversary with a live bell casting by Bell Foundry on Wheels, the world's only traveling bell foundry. Media, elected officials and the public are all invited to attend.

In addition, attendees are invited to enjoy a free factory tour and buffet lunch before the bell casting. The schedule of events is as follows:

- 11 a.m. Factory Tours
- 12 p.m. Lunch Buffet
- 1 p.m. Remarks
- 1:30 p.m. Bell Casting

The Verdin Company was founded in 1842 by French immigrant brothers Francois de Sales and Michel Verdin. They installed their first product, a tower clock, at Old St. Mary's Church in Over the Rhine, Cincinnati, Ohio. In the following 175 years, the company has been operated by six generations of the Verdin family, who still own and operate it today.

The Verdin Company's work has created focal points in thousands of churches and public spaces around the world, helping communities transform public spaces into vital settings that showcase the community, spur rejuvenation and gather people together.

"Among other purposes, our work instills a sense of collective pride," says Jim Verdin. "Whether we're providing a focal point in a public space, adding distinction to a college campus, bringing churches together to worship or creating legacies for donors, our installations transform the spaces they enter."

The company's history is marked by noteworthy breakthroughs and innovations, including:

- Invention of the first electric bell ringer in America (previously, all bells were rung by hand) (1927)
- Introduction of electrification to many installations that were previously manually operated (1930s and 40s)
- Installation of the largest swinging cast bell in America (2000)
- Evolution into becoming the only mobile bell foundry in the world (2001)
- Creation of the world's only foot piano at Smale Park in Cincinnati (2015)

Last year, in addition to its bells, clocks and towers, The Verdin Company added an organ division with the most comprehensive collection of pipe organs, digital organs, hybrid organs and digital pianos ever offered by a single company.

The Verdin Company's foundry is located at 3900 Kellogg Avenue in Cincinnati. For more information about the company, visit <u>www.verdin.com</u> or follow them on <u>Facebook</u>. With any questions or to receive updates about the September 15 event, please contact Amy Watson at <u>amy@verdinmarketing.com</u>.

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About The Verdin Company

The Verdin Company is a world-renowned, sixth-generation family manufacturer of cast bronze bells, carillons, clocks and towers. Since its first construction of a tower clock in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1842, Verdin has pioneered innovation in the bell and clock industry and acquired several bell foundries and related businesses. In 2016, the company added an Organ Division to its collection of products that are seen, heard and enjoyed throughout the world. For more information visit www.verdin.com.



Verdin designed and cast a

custom bell commemorating

their 175th anniversary