

Chimesmaster's Corner

Jenna Mertz '23, Head Chimesmaster

2022 was another exciting and dynamic year for the chimes! The spring semester consisted of not only our annual chimesmaster competition but also our efforts to reopen the tower to the public for the first time since spring 2020.

Our reopening process began in February by first using a reservation system to allow a limited number of visitors up the tower for each concert. In March, while continuing to follow Cornell's masking protocol, we stopped requiring visitors to make reservations and fully opened our doors to the public. Prior to last spring, many of our current chimesmasters had not played for an audience at the top of the tower; after having been a chimesmaster for two years, I had only played one concert open to the public. Though morning concerts at 7:45 am remained slightly less populated, performing for an audience that I could see added an element of humanness to playing the chimes that I had yet to appreciate.

At the end of this change-filled spring semester, we welcomed our three newest chimesmasters: Aidan McNay '24, Ryan Pinard '25, and Shirley Yuan '25. We also celebrated our graduating '22 seniors, Linda Li, Kayla Shames, and Carey Lau.

During the summer, a few chimesmasters in Ithaca kept the bells ringing, fulfilling over a dozen specialty concert requests and hosting several tours. We also upheld the weekly Sunday Summer Sunset Series with themed concerts every Sunday evening as the sun set across Cayuga Lake. Additionally, we had a group of ten total Cornell Chimesmasters, past and present, visit Chicago for the 79th annual Guild of Carillonners in North America (GCNA)

congress. With the pandemic preventing travel in the past few years, our program was excited for this opportunity to explore the world of bell ringing and the music of the University of Chicago's Rockefeller Carillon.

In the fall, with the tower reopening and increasing requests for tower tours, our advisor Jen Lory-Moran '96 '97 hosted a tour training for the current chimesmasters. For me, having this refresher on the history of the chimes and the tower put being a chimesmaster into greater perspective. The reminder of the charm and beauty of the tower that exist outside of just playing the bells gave me a renewed cognizance of the honor of being a chimesmaster.

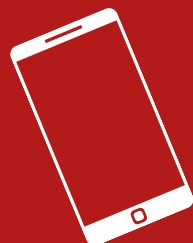
In September, we welcomed alumni members of the Chimes Advisory Council back to campus for our first in-person meeting since 2019. With this being my first and last in-person CAC as a student, I was thrilled to put so many names to the faces of many alumni chimesmasters whose arrangements I have loved playing and whose stories have been passed down.

As my time as a student chimesmaster approaches its end, I reflect on my years playing the chimes with warmth and gratitude. Although my treks up the tower had always been something I looked forward to, they became even more invigorating and enriching with the opportunity to connect with visitors. Talking with guests and answering questions about everything from how we practice to how I first became interested in the chimes has given me a greater appreciation for the unique way in which the chimes connect the Cornell community. As I look to the future, I hope to pursue my endeavors with the care and compassion that being a chimesmaster has taught me.



JENNA PERFORMS FOR AN IN PERSON AUDIENCE

Connect to the Chimes All Year Long!



- Instagram @CornellChimes
- Facebook: facebook.com/chimes.cornell
- Website: chimes.cornell.edu
- Email chimes@cornell.edu to learn more about the chimesmasters' private Facebook group and alumni email list



CHIMESMASTERS AT THE HALLOWEEN CONCERT

Notes from the Chimes Advisor

Jen Lory-Moran '96, '97

It was so heartwarming to once again have an in-person Chimes Advisory Council meeting this fall. In addition to seeing old friends and getting caught up on the status of the program, we read and discussed R.H. Lee's "Chimes and Campus" essay (page 126 in The Cornell Chimes book). Many of us had not read the essay in years, and we found it impressive how many of his points remain relevant 80 years after it was written. We enjoyed considering what we might add to it now to reflect the responsibilities of being a chimesmaster today. If you haven't read "Chimes and Campus" lately, I encourage you to give it another read. It's amazing how eloquent and timeless it truly is!

A number of the current chimesmasters are finishing developing a Compets' Handbook, an idea that came about at the 2021 CAC meeting. As part of our continuing efforts to address compet wellness and reduce stress during the annual competition, we are creating this resource for compets to have all the important information about learning to play the chimes in one place.

Another project I participated in this year was contributing an article to "A Century of Women and the Carillon." Dr. Tiffany Ng and an international team of researchers created an online resource that chronicles the

contributions of women carillonists, composers, philanthropists, writers, and bellfounders over the last 100 years. (And, while Jennie McGraw doesn't have a full entry, she IS mentioned on the home page as a philanthropist!) Check out the extensive collaboration at carillonwomen.org.

Finally, I'm excited to share that my carillon arrangement of "Che si può fare" by Barbara Strozzi was performed at the GCNA congress in Chicago and is now available for purchase through the GCNA Music Store.

Twenty years ago my Chimes Newsletter article was a poem titled "I've Been Playing HOW Long?" about my first ten years of playing the chimes. It described the Halloween costumes I'd worn, the wonderful people I'd met, and that darn pumpkin. Well, this spring marks THIRTY years since I became a chimesmaster. I now go to bed too early for the Halloween concert, I am no longer inclined to express myself in rhyming verse, and pumpkin worries were replaced with a pandemic. But my love for the Chimes has done nothing but grow. Learning to tease beautiful music out of huge bronze bells never stops bringing me joy. And the people? Oh, YOU ARE, AND WILL ALWAYS BE, MY PEOPLE. I am so grateful to have had 30 years to get to know you all, and I consider every one of you to be a friend.

This annual newsletter of the Cornell Chimes is brought to you by Campus Activities.



Website: chimes.cornell.edu
Email: chimes@cornell.edu
Instagram: [@cornellchimes](https://www.instagram.com/cornellchimes)



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Spotlight on Jen: 30th Chimes Anniversary

Cornell Chimes celebrates advisor Jen Lory-Moran for 30 years of music!

In the past 30 years, Jen has:

- Performed 1,100 concerts
- Played 2,690 solo pieces
- Played 1,220 duets
- Arranged at least 14 pieces
- Written 2 original pieces

**Congratulations
and Thank You, Jen!**



THIS PHOTO EXEMPLIFIES THE JOY JEN HAS BROUGHT TO THE CHIMES PROGRAM OVER THE PAST THREE DECADES



JEN SMILES IN FRONT OF THE BELLS

Thank you to our generous alumni and friends for your gifts to the Cornell Chimes this year. Your gift today will make an immediate and lasting impact on the program.

Learn more at chimes.cornell.edu/giving.



ALUMNI MEMBERS OF THE CHIMES ADVISORY COUNCIL RETURNED TO CAMPUS IN SEPTEMBER



**In Marisa's time, there
have been over...**

17,000 concerts

75,000 pieces

850 new songs arranged

Marisa LaFalce Celebrates 24 Years of Chimes

Marisa LaFalce '96

After 24 years with the Cornell Chimes program and more than two decades as newsletter editor, I stepped down earlier this fall due to family commitments. The new team invited me to share some highlights from my time with the Cornell Chimes program in a final newsletter article. I am honored to have served the program for so long, and I have many great memories along with a deep appreciation and love for the instrument and its musicians. Here are just a few highlights:

I began working with the chimes in October 1997 within weeks of the famous pumpkin appearing on top of McGraw Tower (I swear, I had nothing to do with it, although countless people told me they knew who had put the pumpkin on top)! McGraw Tower was renovated inside and out, and the bells were removed from the tower and sent to Georgetown, Ohio for expansion and tuning.

It was an honor to participate in such a unique project, and my memories include shepherding President Emeritus Dale R. Corson and his wife Nellie through the farmlands of Ohio to see their bell cast at the Meeks, Watson,

and Co. foundry; watching current chimesmasters hug their partially-tuned bells and then play the “Cornell Alma Mater” by banging on them as they sat upturned on the floor; having a lunchtime kazoo concert at the top of the tower scaffolding; and, together with the Cornell Dairy, inventing “Chimescream,” a vanilla ice cream with dark chocolate bells and a big red raspberry swirl, yum!

Fast forward to September 11, 2001 and the terror and heartbreak that ensued. I was asked by the University to coordinate a candlelight vigil, and the chimesmasters played a key role in selecting and playing music to help our community heal.

The chimes truly are the heartbeat of campus, playing for Cornell presidential inaugurations, weddings (including my own), holidays, memorials, and celebrations, and performing for every single university commencement, even when it meant constructing a playing stand on the Sage Chapel lawn to keep the celebration going. Music has transformational power, and the chimes are inextricably linked to the tempos of campus life.

What I will cherish most are the relationships that I have made with chimesmasters (both current and alumni) through the years. The Chimes Advisory Council is a small and mighty group of dedicated alumni who were instrumental (pun intended) in both the tuning of the bells in 1998 and establishing the Chimes Unrestricted Program Endowment. The endowment payout supports the current use of operational funds and continues to grow through annual donor support. Connecting with undergraduate students and having those relationships evolve as they become engaged alumni with families and careers of their own is the highlight of working in a student-centered role.

With the coordination of three all-chimesmaster reunions during my tenure, I met numerous alumni and friends and also watched them bond over a shared love of the bells. The musical skills of our chimesmasters have inspired me to instill that same love of music in my children. I once had the privilege of visiting Phillis Dittman McClelland '43, the first woman chimesmaster, at her home, which was filled with bells that she had collected during a lifetime of travel. After her passing, her family gave me one. The bell hangs in my garden today and reminds me of the many valued relationships and memories I have gathered in the last 24 years.

**Thank you
so much,
Marisa!**

A Message From the Director of Campus Activities

Karli Buday, Director of Campus Activities

I am excited to be working closely with the Chimes Program! As some of you may know, the Chimes program was realigned under Campus Activities this past summer. Campus Activities works closely with student leaders, staff, and campus partners to ensure that the most iconic and symbolic programs and events carry on through the years. This includes Slope Day, ClubFest, Convocation, Senior Days, etc. With the Chimes program being a central symbol uniting the Cornell community, it seems like the most natural fit to restructure within Campus Activities.

I have been at Cornell for a little over 12 years, and in those years have held a few roles at Cornell, including positions in residential life overseeing Risley and the Townhouses, Orientation working with new students, Sorority and Fraternity Life working with the Panhellenic Council community, and finally within Campus Activities working with Cornell's 1200 student organizations and supporting the largest programming/events councils on campus. In my past work with Orientation, I had the opportunity to work closely with Marisa and quickly realized we had the same passion for supporting the Cornell students and community and the same level of dedication when it came to creating and running large-scale events! Marisa has been a critical player in the success and longevity of the Chimes program these past 24 years and worked extremely hard to ensure the transition of knowledge was smooth. I have learned a lot about the Chimes program over the past few months, and I look forward to finding ways Campus Activities can support it. Thank you, Marisa, Jen, Jenna, and Keith for supporting the smooth transition. I look forward to meeting many Chimes folks in the future!



GNCA

Jen Lory-Moran '96, '97

For the first time since 2019, the GCNA Congress was held in person last summer, and the Cornell Chimes were well represented! Ten current and alumni chimesmasters were in attendance at the gathering at the University of Chicago in June 2022. We enjoyed performances on the 72-bell Rockefeller Carillon (one of the largest carillons in the world); a 1:5 scale replica of the Iowa State Carillon, set up outside for a “Rhymes and Chimes” program of Robert Frost poetry and carillon music; and a chamber carillon built by B.A. Sunderlin, which was set up inside the chapel for the week. As a special treat, we enjoyed hearing Chimes alumni Keiran Cantilina ('15) and Ren Ortega ('16) perform a brilliant chamber carillon/clarinet duet during a concert featuring works for “Carillon Plus” (carillon + another instrument).

While past Congresses have frequently scheduled one concert for new Carillonneur members of the Guild and one or two concerts for newly published music, this year featured new members from 2019- 2021 as well as an abundance of newly published music. The programming throughout the week featured over 50 performers and many hours of new music by diverse composers and arrangers, with overarching concert themes such as “Song and Dance,” “Soaring Skies,” and “Celebrations.”

Unusual this year were 3 blocks of master-class opportunities that could be signed up for in advance,

including simultaneous offerings of change ringing, composing for carillon, various playing techniques, baroque ornamentation, organ demonstrations, and more.

This Congress was a wonderful opportunity to introduce our chimesmasters to the bell-ringing community outside of Cornell. The chimesmasters and I are all incredibly grateful to those who made this trip possible through gifts to the Cornell Chimes. The next Congress will be held in Cohasset, MA from June 14-17, 2023. I know we have many chimes alums in the Boston area - we'd love to see some of you there!



CHIMESMASTERS IN FRONT OF THE ROCKEFELLER CARILLON

In Remembrance

This year, we remember a Chimesmaster who has passed away since the publication of our last newsletter: Kenneth Knowlton '52.

This list is from information that Alumni Affairs & Development has shared with the Chimes Program and Campus Activities.

