

## Quotes from *The Cornell Era*

Compiled by Daniel Zlatin (DRZ) MS '80

As we approach the 150th anniversary of Jennie McGraw's donation of the chimes to the university, we continue to look back to see how the chimes were perceived in those following years. *The Cornell Era*, the first Cornell student newspaper, is available online and searchable at the Cornell University Digital Archives at [ebooks.library.cornell.edu/c/cuda](http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/c/cuda). Of course, one immediately searches for "chime" or "bell," right?

Below are a number of short quotes published in *The Cornell Era* during its early years. Some of them might indicate why the "3-week rule" was created. This rule says that chimesmasters should not play a piece of music if it has been played within the last three weeks, unless there is a specific request for the piece.

Other quotes leave one wondering what, exactly, was going on at the time. And, perhaps, lead to the question of why the quote was published in the first place—no context has been provided.

As a reminder, references to McGraw Tower (or similar) refer to the tower in McGraw Hall, not the current McGraw Tower, which was not completed until 1891.

**Sept. 29, 1869:** At the end of an article about the lack of music in Cornell student life as compared to student life at European universities "...When the Trustees deem it



McGraw Hall circa 1875.

proper to appoint some energetic, enthusiastic Professor of Music, and when more attention is paid to the art in our lower schools, we shall be musical enough. Meanwhile, let us be thankful for our tuneful Chimes!"

**Oct. 20, 1869:** The Meneeley Brothers have just forwarded a new bell to take the place of the smallest bell of the chimes, that not having given satisfaction.

**May 31, 1872:** Students who love to sleep, or walk slowly, have had a plausible excuse during several days this week for coming into recitations too late... The bells are being

transferred from the overgrown dry-goods box which has thus far held them to the stately McGraw campanile, whence they will soon chime forth, in tones that will be heard farther than ever before, and seem more tuneful after their brief silence.

**Dec. 12, 1874:** The Master of the Chimes announces that the 6 a.m. bell will be discontinued until further notice. We are sorry, for now our morning devotions will be unaccompanied by the soul-stirring strains of "Old Hundred."

**Sept. 24, 1875:** The University clock

*Continued on next page*

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## Global Tower

According to guest book entries, here are just a few of the places visitors hailed from during a two-month period this year:

Manado, Indonesia  
Oslo, Norway  
Bogota, Columbia  
China (multiple entries & cities)  
Seoul, South Korea  
Rome, Italy  
Mumbai, India  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
Yaoundé, Cameroun  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Porto Alegre, Brazil

The chimesmasters are proud to welcome such a diverse crowd to our daily concerts!



*An annual newsletter of the Cornell Chimes*

**Editor:** Marisa LaFalce

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## Quotes *continued*

chimes the quarter hours both day and night somewhat to the discomfort of unsound sleepers on the hill.

**March 31, 1876:** Berry '74, is taking a short vacation for the benefit of his health. During his absence Willmarth '76, has been pealing the chimes and the palms of his hands. *Note: George Holt Berry is in our list of Chimesmasters (1872-1876); Willmarth '76 is not.*

**June 2, 1876:** The large bell which strikes the hour apparently got on a tear last Wednesday morning. It did not strike nine until half an hour after the right time, when its uneasy tones aroused some of the students long enough to make them look at their watches. However, it did not succeed in making any of the Professors dismiss their classes, as some wished it had done.

**Sept. 22, 1876:** A Freshman hearing the University chimes asked "if they ever played tunes on those bells." We refer him to the master of the chimes.

**Nov. 24, 1876:** What was the matter with the chimes before morning service last Sunday?

**Apr. 6, 1877:** The chime master is chosen by competition. A member of the Freshman class has by less than a year's practice become as proficient in playing the chimes as is the present incumbent of the office.

**Oct. 5, 1877:** The "Blue bells of Scotland" played on the chimes so much during the last two weeks might be sent to the shades for a while, with the old favorite "Amaryllis."

**Feb. 8, 1878:** The Master of the Chimes found the other day that the zephyrs had swept

with such strength through the McGraw tower, as to blow in the letters on the bells.

**June 12, 1878:** It is to be hoped that the ringers of the chimes will have enlarged their *repertoire* of selections by next term. The banged bells ... will almost play "Way Down on the Swanee" and "Wanitah" themselves, now.

**Sept. 27, 1878:** Once more we hear the sweet notes of "The Blue Bells of Scotland" and "Amaryllis," peal forth on the morning air. But we would like to ask by way of parenthesis, if there is anything new under the sun in the way of music. We have heard these beautiful pieces played so often that they are becoming painfully familiar, and if the master of the chimes has anything new in his repertoire we hope to be made aware of the fact soon. We suggest "Whoa Emma," for to-morrow morning.

**Oct. 4, 1878:** "Grandfather's Clock" on the Chimes. Appropriate, as far as the "stopped short" is concerned.

**Oct. 3, 1879:** It is reported that the Master of the Chimes has been hired to kill off Pinafore for a pittance. He murdered several of the principal selections between the hours of seven and eight yesterday.

**Mar. 12, 1880:** The repertoire of the chime master needs some new tunes.

**Feb. 27, 1885:** It is reported that this last cold snap was of such frigidity as to prevent the chimes from ringing some of the morning hours. When sound freezes, you may know it is cold.

## Learning to play bells in the 21st century

Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, Chimes Advisor

I have been trying to learn to play the carillon for a number of years, but those efforts have been thwarted by the fact that there are no carillons within a 90-mile radius of my home. The carillonneur at Alfred University has been very welcoming of my efforts, but two hours each way makes for a long drive to practice one's instrument with any kind of regularity. This year, I rented an electronic practice carillon keyboard from a company

called Chime Master. Having regular access to a practice stand has made a huge difference in my progress. Even more exciting, for the last few months, a friend in Belgium has been giving me carillon lessons over Skype! When we want to work on a new piece together, one of us will scan the music and email it to the other. Then we have a videochat lesson with me at my electronic practice stand. It is all *very* high-tech and *very* exciting!

During the Chimes Advisory Council weekend, I played Dick Lee's "Etude" with CEJLC, and that was just amazing.

Ren Ortega '16 adjusts the playing stand prior to performing a concert.

## Spotlight on Karen Ortega '16

Marisa LaFalce

As final exams wind down, I met with Karen "Ren" Ortega (RLO) who is graduating in a few days. Ren is one of four winners of the Sesquicentennial My Cornell Writing Contest; read her winning essay here: [150.cornell.edu/participate/writing](http://150.cornell.edu/participate/writing).

*Hi Ren! Thanks for meeting with me. Your days as a Cornell student are truly numbered! Have you finished all of your exams and papers yet?*

I just have a final exam tomorrow and then that's it....

*How does it feel?*

It's weird! Since I transferred in January of my sophomore year, I feel like I have only been here for two years and that I should have more time here before I graduate.

*It's impressive that you've been able to complete your degree requirements so quickly. It sounds rather bittersweet.*

Yes, I feel like there are many things I wish I could have done as a student that I could

not because I was trying to finish a semester early. But I still have the chimes, which is good. (Smile).

*You are in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. What is your major?*

I am studying Environmental Science.

*And was it a really full semester this term with trying to graduate?*

Yes, I have a lot going on. I've been working on a senior honors thesis. I also took Japanese 101 which I've been wanting to do for a long time.

*Japanese—that's impressive, that's very intensive.*

Yes, plus I had an off-campus job and two other classes.

*We're glad that even though you're graduating now, you don't have plans to leave us (yet). Tell us about your post-student plans.*

Well, I am applying to graduate school right now. Mostly programs in the Midwest around the Great Lakes because I want to study the Great Lakes. But I am also applying to Cornell.

*Didn't you intern at one point near one of the lakes?*

Yes. I had a research experience as an undergraduate through Ohio State University that was on Lake Erie in the summer of 2014.

*So when you say you want to study the Great Lakes, what exactly does that mean?*

I am interested in topics like water chemistry, algae bloom, human impacts on the Great Lakes, and the like.

*And are these master's-level programs, doctorates, or both?*

Some schools offer combined programs where you get both an M.S. and a Ph.D. Some are direct Ph.D programs.

*So in the near term, how are you planning to spend the next six months?*

I plan to work full time and save some money. It's hard to do that as a student. I am also looking forward to having some time off from school. I haven't had nearly enough time to sit and read or knit, or practice the chimes—or some of the things I like to do for fun.

*Yes, there are many benefits to being a student, but there isn't that sense of being done; work is always there. Your history is unique because you came to Cornell as a transfer student. We don't*

*Continued on next page*

*have many transfer students among our chimesmasters. How did you find your way to Cornell?*

Ithaca College (IC) and Cornell have a class exchange program, so if you're a student at one university, you may take a class at the other university with no additional tuition costs. What I liked about IC was that you could design your own concentration for your Environmental Science major. Plus, I figured anything not offered at IC, I could take at Cornell.

So I took a class at Cornell and I really liked it—liked the whole atmosphere, the culture. I took a class the next semester and had the same experience, so I decided to transfer into Cornell the spring of my sophomore year.

*And did you try out for the chimes your first semester at Cornell? How did you get connected to the bells so quickly?!*

I don't really remember, I must have gotten a quarter card announcing the competition in my mailbox. The week the chimes info sessions happened, I had many other info sessions I wanted to go to. I was walking down the slope and heard the 6 p.m. bells while on the phone with my mom. I said, "I've got to run, Mom, I've got to get to an info session right now!" I sprinted up the slope to the tower.

In high school, I learned a new instrument, virtually every year, in part out of necessity. So I learned clarinet in grade school, but there were no clarinets in the high school marching band, because there were not enough people to play them, so I moved to saxophone. Then the marching band didn't have enough trombones, so I learned trombone.

*That is very different! There is a lot more overlap between clarinet and saxophone, than trombone.*

Yes, trombone was very different. Then I was in the pit orchestra for the high school musical, and they only had a clarinet/flute/piccolo book, so I learned flute and piccolo.

*Wow, so what did you play in the actual musical?*

I played all three instruments; the music would guide me so I'd play a page or two of clarinet, then switch to piccolo (per the music) then to the flute.

*That's amazing!*

Thanks. Yes, my grandma was a piano teacher and played the guitar when she was younger, and my mom also played the piano. Piano is what I started with, and I just always really liked music.

*That's great. My sense is that if you learn one instrument and then you learn another, it really does improve your skills across all instruments, rather than deter from one.*

My mom always listened to this classical music station whenever she was working in the kitchen, and she'd always ask me to pick out the instruments playing the music.

*You've been very active and engaged in the chimes program during your time as a student, by crashing (lots) of concerts, serving as summer chimesmaster, and chimes librarian. Can you talk about this involvement?*

Well, the chimes are very important to me because when I first transferred I didn't have any connections social or otherwise. It was very hard to come to a new school in the middle of the year, so having something new that started in January made it a lot easier for me to transition to Cornell.

I also just really like playing! It's fun to play concerts with all of the different chimesmasters because everybody has such a different style. I find that, well, I play a lot of concerts with Keiran (Cantilina '15); we're pretty good at reading each other and playing together. But sometimes it is nice to play with someone I haven't played with as much. During the Chimes Advisory Council weekend, I played Dick Lee's "Etude" with CEJLC (Catherine Longley-Cook '03), and that was just amazing. I don't think I have ever played that piece that well in my entire life.

It is interesting to see how sometimes the people you play music with the most often are not always the best person for you to play with.

*Different styles of performers brings out different things in your own playing?*

I think so. It's hard to explain. When I was in high school, I played piano daily because I was an accompanist for the choirs. But one day a week when I wasn't practicing with the choir, I practiced on my own. Every now and then I played something very musically full—where I felt very moved by the music. With the chimes, playing something very powerful like "Firebird Suite," especially with someone else, that is when I really feel the music.

*It makes sense. Music is art; we all express ourselves in different ways. Different playing styles and musical choices will impact your experience.*

*Have you arranged any music or written any compositions for the chimes?*

Yes. My arrangement of "Heaven's Light Hellfire" from the "Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "On My Own" from "Les Misérables" were recently accepted. I have a few "props" that are still in the works—like "O Holy Night," because the arrangement we have is a hard time signature to play. I have also arranged a couple of hymns and a Josh Groban piece. I also did an arrangement of "Tik Tok" by Kesha for Slope Day last year. Just as part

of the Slope Day concert fun.

I have written a couple of original songs for the chimes, but I haven't had a chance to try them out yet.

*So if we searched your repertoire in the database, what types of pieces would we see you like to play?*

I think it would be a pretty big mix of stuff. The song I have played the most is "Nearer My God To Me." I've played it like 20 times. I've also played "Bring Him Home" from "Les Misérables" a lot, as well as "I Want It That Way" by the Backstreet Boys.

Recently, I've been trying to play pieces in the files that haven't been played since the chimes music database was started (10 years ago). I want to find songs that maybe we've missed. I'd say about two-thirds of the songs I've played are really quite good. A lot of them are two-line pieces—like "German Folk Dance." Sometimes I come across a piece that there is a good reason that a song hasn't been played in 10 years and shouldn't be played for another 10 years!

*I guess that's fair given how many pieces we have in our database. We are up to almost 3000 now. How do you enjoy spending your leisure time, like on the weekend? You mentioned reading and knitting.*

Yes, I like to do those things. I also like to run, but I have been so busy and haven't had a chance, so I'm out of shape.

*But maybe after the semester ends?*

I hope so! Especially since it has been so mild... there comes a point in the winter when I don't like to be out when it's cold and icy but if it stays this warm...

*Am I allowed to ask you about your tattoo for the newsletter?*

Sure! This fall (Halloween) I got a bell tattoo on the inside of my ankle. It is in the shape of a bell with little curlicues detailing the inside, like the metal grillwork on the clock faces.

*That is the first Cornell Chimes tattoo I've heard of!*

No! Actually Jen (Lory-Moran '96) got one earlier this year. And now Kieran (Cantilina '15) has one too.

*The chimes truly do have a unique legacy. Thank you so much for taking the time to meet with me, Ren. I really appreciate it. Congratulations on graduating!*

**T**hank you to our generous alumni and friends for their gifts to the Cornell Chimes last year (fiscal year July 2014–June 2015). Your gift today will make an immediate and lasting impact on the chimes program.

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Mr. Lawrence Neil Bailis '66  
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PHOTO BY BOB FELDMAN

A budding chimesmaster? Bob Feldman's '66 grandson Milo tests out the West Newton chime stand.



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

Jenny Xia '13, Renee Setter '13, Erica Ho '13, and Bryan Chong '13 pose with beautiful bride Ivana Thng '12 on her wedding day.

## Alumni Notes

**W**elcome to the 2016 edition of Alumni Notes! Here **George Ubogy '58** shares this bell adventure from sunny Sarasota, Florida... "One of my winter neighbors is Wiley Crawford, the recently retired carillonneur of the University of Chicago. He invited me along when he visited Geert d'Hollander, carillonneur of the Bok Memorial Tower in Lake Wales, Florida, and a recent Master Class teacher at Cornell. The Bok Tower is not too far from Disneyworld, which is sort of appropriate—it's an attractive tower with tile grilles, many stone sculptures, 60 bells, a Great Brass Door, and iron gates.

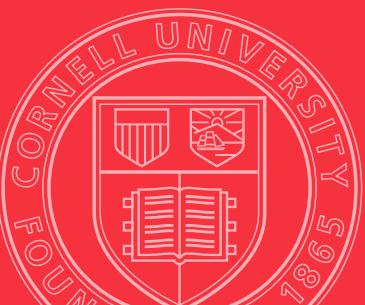
"The instrument is very responsive and Geert is an excellent player, with a light touch. He gives 30-minute recitals twice a day, with closed circuit television transmitted down to the audience area, which has pre-printed programs... What I'm saying is that, if any of you decide to make the carillon your career, this is not a bad gig to secure."

Speaking of Disney, **Crystal Cun '07** writes, "I just got back from a trip to Orlando, where I saw

**Lisa Ngai '05** for the first time in years! Back in 2009, she came to Chicago to run a half marathon. This time, I was in town to run the Disney marathon. We caught up over some pimento hush puppies and lox and avocado toast, then I woke up the next morning for a rather long jaunt around all five Disney theme parks (and a lot of boring highways)."

**Bob Feldman '66** continues to keep active in his bell playing in West Newton, MA. This summer, Bob, together with other Boston-area alumni, including **Cathy (Jordan) Longley-Cook '03**, and **Kathryn Barger GR**, hosted three summer concerts. Guests were invited to enjoy the music from the lawn outside the church, and each concert had good attendance, including a number of Cornell alumni.

We also welcomed Bob back (twice) this year, including an extended vacation in August, which created a lot of time for playing the chimes. His one request? "Tell newsletter readers that we need more chimesmaster alumni to move to the Boston area and join us in chiming in West Newton."



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PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN



Ms. Incredible – Crystal Cun '07, after finishing the Disney Marathon.

PHOTO BY JEN LORY-MORAN



Mike Mage '55 back for his 60th reunion and 60th wedding anniversary to wife Rose '55.

Congratulations go out to **Ivana Thng '12** who got married in Singapore this summer to Liang Ze Wong '12. **Bryan Chong '13, Erica Ho '13, Renee Setter '13, and Jenny Xia '13** were all in attendance. We wish Ivana and Ze all the best for their life together!

In January, **Karen (Ren) Ortega '15** and **Kieran Cantilina '15** hosted Griffin Jenkins, President of the Altgeld ringers at the University of Illinois. Ren writes, "They have a 15-bell chime which is really only meant to play one Illinois song, so our bells took some getting used to, but he was able to play a few songs, including some duets, with us. This was a wonderful opportunity for the chimesmasters, as we're always trying to foster relationships with collegiate bell ringers."

Finally we want to thank the many alumni chimesmasters who visited McGraw Tower (from both near and far) over the past year, including **Jennifer Turney GR, Nancy Sexton '82, Victor Lin '01, Sam Birma-her '10, Steve Santurri '87, Waitz Ngan '02, Kathryn Barger GR, Bob Feldman '66, Kevin Giroux '12, Serena (Wong) Kachlany '96, Erica Ho '13,** and

**Kenny Lim '05.**

In addition, we had many alumni return for special Cornell University and chimes-specific events throughout the year, including the annual Chimes Advisory Council meeting in November and Cornell Alumni Reunion in June. Reunion attendees included **Peter Dean '66, Mike Mage '55, Scott Silverstein '08, Taras Czebiniak '06, and Jenny Xia '13.** A special congratulations to Mike and Rose Mage who also celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary that weekend! **Lauren (Marino) Casey '02, Jennifer Turney GR, Erica Ho '13, and Renee Setter '13** were all present for the Erwin Chan Memorial Concert last May.

If your travels bring you to Ithaca, we hope that you'll let the Cornell Chimesmasters know that you're coming. We love to see our alumni and friends at the top of the tower, and we welcome our alumni to play. Don't be afraid of a little chimes rust!



# Chimesmaster's Corner

Charlie Xu '16, Head Chimesmaster

2015 has been another fantastic year for the chimesmasters. We kicked the year off with the annual chimesmaster competition, run by Keiran Cantilina '15 as Head Chimesmaster and Ilia Karp '15 as Competition Coordinator. The compets practiced very diligently, and constantly impressed us with the development of their performing ability over the course of the ten-week period. At the end of the competition, the chimesmasters and I excitedly welcomed John Lee '18, Tony Li '17, and Julia King GR to the chimes family.

The chimes rang on many afternoons this summer thanks to Jen (Lory-Moran '96), Gretchen (Ryan '97), and Keith (Jenkins '93), as well as the student chimesmasters who remained on campus, Keiran (Cantilina '15), Ilia (Karp '15), Julia (King GR), and Ren (Ortega '16). In addition to playing regularly scheduled concerts, the chimesmasters also performed eight specialty concerts, open houses for reunion, and continued the Summer Sunset Concert Series. This year's sunset themes included "A Night at the Theater," "You're Never Too Old for Disney," and "Chimes Originals."

In the fall, the chimesmasters returned to begin a busy semester. We played 10 specialty concerts and led seven tours of the tower, played the 51st annual Halloween concert, as well as a segment of President Garrett's inauguration, in which the chimesmasters came together to ring the bells for the procession. Another highlight of the fall semester was our road trip to Ottawa, Ontario. We attended the Percival Price Carillon Symposium at the Peace Tower Carillon, played at a local bell tower, and explored the Byward Market. The chimes also started to gain more publicity, as the chimesmasters participated in interviews for the *Cornell Alumni Magazine*, a short documentary made by Ithaca College students, and a news story running on Time Warner Cable. We ended 2015, like previous years, with the Sage Chapel Christmas Vespers concerts, probably my favorite of the chimes traditions. Holiday music just sounds so nice on the bells, and the tower is so cozy in the winter!

I look forward to the spring semester with great anticipation after having a restful winter break. My last semester at Cornell is marked by a relaxed class schedule, and I foresee myself spending a lot of time with the chimes, particularly during the exciting period of the chimes competition. The compets seem to learn to play the instrument faster and faster each year, and I eagerly await watching them develop into the talented next generation of Cornell Chimesmasters. The chimes has played a central role in my Cornell experience; I met some of my best friends on campus and had some of my most cherished memories through the chimes program. Though I know I will miss undergraduate life at Cornell greatly, I look forward to moving on to the next phase of my life in Washington, D.C. and getting involved with the chimes and the university as an alumnus.

I'd like to thank the entire chimes family. You brought me great joy and many cherished memories, and I look forward to more she-nanigans, duet concerts, and "Rag" speed competitions this semester and in the future.



PHOTO BY CORNELL UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY

Charlie Xu '16 at the playing stand.

*Charlie Xu (CYX) is a senior studying Biological Engineering, concentrating in Bioprocess Engineering. When he's not working as head chimesmaster, he spends his time mentoring younger bioengineering students as a president of the undergraduate bioengineering society, Institute of Biological Engineers, at the Jonathan Butcher Lab in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, or at Saigon Kitchen, his favorite restaurant in Ithaca. After graduation, he will start as a business and systems integration analyst with Accenture Federal Services in Washington, D.C.*



PHOTO BY CHARLIE XU

Serim An '17 tries her hand at the playing stand of the 10-bell Sandy Hill chime during the roadtrip to Ottawa in October.



# Guild of Carilloners in North America Congress Update

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Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, Chimes Advisor

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The annual meeting of the Guild of Carilloners in North America (GCNA) was at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri, June 15–19, 2015. This year, Ilia Karp '15 and I were able to attend, although our time together at GCNA only overlapped by a few hours. Bad weather throughout the Northeast and Midwest caused problems with flights for many attendees (including some of the presenters and both of us), and by the time Ilia made it to Missouri, it was time for me to leave!

This was Ilia's first opportunity to attend a GCNA Congress. Highlights for him were meeting new people and getting a chance to play the 48-bell carillon during open playing time on the final day. GCNA highlights

for me this year included discovering some beautiful and exciting new-to-me pieces during performances by exam candidates and GCNA members, connecting with old friends from across the country, and attending

a presentation on "Injury Prevention for Musicians" by Dr. Susan Robinson from the Missouri State University Department of Physical Therapy. Dr. Robinson blended her knowledge of physical therapy and her former experiences

PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN



as a serious musician to discuss overuse injuries and their prevention. Two particular points raised that I think we should be mindful of in our own playing were the dangers of asymmetrical postures (I'm thinking of all of us that stand on our right foot almost exclusively while we play) and the importance of increasing practice time gradually over time so the body can adjust.

The next GCNA Congress will be in New Haven, Connecticut at Yale University, June 16–19, 2016. We hope that many current chimesmasters will be able to attend this congress.

Ilia Karp '15 and Jen Lory-Moran '96 overlap for a few minutes at the GCNA Congress at Missouri State University.

## Chimes Competition 2015

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Ilia Karp '15, Competition Coordinator

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As we do each year, we held our 10-week competition in the spring semester. The name "competition" is a bit misleading; it's really more of an extended audition, where competes, the people trying out, are auditioning to become chimesmasters. Initially, 34 people signed up; while slightly lower than previous years, it was a respectably sized group. 16 competes completed the silent audition, and seven of these competes advanced to the second round. We accepted three new chimesmasters: John Lee '18, Tony Li '17, and Julia King GR. The required pieces for the second round were "Autumn," an original composition by Barrett Smith '14, and "Rondolletto," by Napoleon Coste, arranged by Keith Jenkins '93.

As someone who has gone through the competition twice, I have definitely had my share of frustrations. To that end, we've been slowly trying out a number of new ideas, both to try and make it less stressful for the competes and to bring the competition into the modern era:

- In 2014, Weijia Chen '14 created a series of mini-lessons for competes. Competes could schedule a 15-minute lesson with their coach at the practice stand and ask questions. It was a quickly planned test run that worked well, so we integrated it more fully into the second round this year. The competes could arrange up to two

lessons with each of their coaches, for a total of four lessons in the four weeks between the start of the second round and the beginning of the judged concerts.

- We continued holding Tower Hours in the first round of the competition, but changed the format. Instead of one large group-help session where there would be multiple chimesmasters present, we held office hours; one of the chimesmasters would be in the office, and the competes could come by with questions. We were able to hold more sessions this way, which gave the competes a range of times that would be convenient, and reduce the number of competes present at any given time, allowing for more one-on-one time.
- Instead of the traditional paper sign-up sheet in the tower, we tested using Google Docs during the second round. Similar to how the ChimesScan project allowed us to view our music database anywhere via the internet, this allowed the competes to sign up for practice slots at their convenience, as well as to check whether or not the practice room or main console were free before making the trek to the tower.

Overall, I think these changes had a positive effect on the competition, and helped to make the competes' lives a little easier. Good luck to Emily Graf '16, our competition coordinator this coming spring!

# Farewell to Richard H. Lee '41

Marisa LaFalce

It is with great sadness that I write that musical great Richard (Dick) Lee '41 has passed away. Ask any chimesmaster what their favorite chimes pieces are, and almost every one will mention at least one Dick Lee composition. Dick's musical contribution to the Cornell Chimes included numerous original pieces, but also his pamphlet, "Chimes and Campus," which was published by Cornell's Department of Music in 1943, and reproduced in the Cornell Chimes book in 1991. In this timeless publication, Dick offered suggestions for arranging chimes music, planning programs, playing the bells, alumni engagement, and other guidance; it is still used by chimesmasters today.

In addition to the Cornell Chimes, Dick was also an active and distinguished member of the Cornell Glee Club, authoring "Strike Up a Song to Cornell," which is still a Glee Club favorite to this day.

Music was always a part of Dick's life. In his later years, he wrote music for churches and religious groups, including collaborations with his wife Laurie Lee.

Dick's last trip to Cornell was for his 65th reunion in June 2006. During his visit, he climbed McGraw Tower, performed with the Glee Club, and enjoyed a special recital of all 22 pieces from his work the *Bellman's Suite*, performed by Keith Jenkins '93 and Jennifer Lory-Moran '96. More information about the recital and Dick's reunion visit can be found in this *Cornell Chronicle* article: [www.news.cornell.edu/stories/2006/06/hells-bells-peal-out-chimesmaster-dick-lee-41](http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/2006/06/hells-bells-peal-out-chimesmaster-dick-lee-41).

Chimesmasters around the globe mourn the loss of this musical treasure. "I think it is safe to say that every chimesmaster living today has played and appreciated R. H. Lee's music. He opened up the realm of the possible in composing for the chimes," wrote Daniel Zlatin GR.

Fortunately, his legacy will remain, as his many contributions peal out from McGraw Tower.

Robert Gifford '39, Richard H. Lee '41, and Bruce C. Netschert '41, admire the two new bells added to the chimes in 1939.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



# CAC Raises Money and Reconnects Alumni Chimesmasters

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Scott Silverstein '08, Council Co-chair

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## Funding

**H**ow much does it cost to keep the Cornell Chimes running without a clang? The Chimes Advisory Council (CAC) looked into this question in preparation for its fall 2015 annual meeting, and we're proud to report a strong financial base thanks to the continued support of alumni and friends.

Historically, the chimes has received support from the university, endowment payout, and annual giving. In recent years, university-wide belt tightening has meant a diminishing university allocation, and the chimes has relied more heavily on alumni support to keep our program strong. In spring 2015, the university eliminated all program-support for the chimes; only a small facility-related allocation remains. The Cornell Chimes \$40,000-plus annual budget must now be covered exclusively through endowment and annual support.

The CAC started planning years ago for this inevitable twist of fortune. The Unrestricted Chimes Program Endowment began in 2011 and has grown to a principal of over \$200,000. The chimes received about \$8,000 in payout from the endowment this year. Annual gifts constitute another \$8,500 per year. These, together with the more restrictive payouts from the Emil and Marie Sibal Chimes and Tower endowment and the Monica Novakovic Chimes Program Endowment, mean there is an approximately \$5,000 annual shortfall. In the near term, this will be covered by a limited reserve account. However, we can eliminate that shortfall if the endowment grows to \$325,000 in the next four years. That's our next goal. Please visit [givetothechimes.com](http://givetothechimes.com) if you would like to make a contribution!

## Alumni Outreach

Another (completely unrelated, I must stress) goal of CAC is to reach out to alumni chimesmasters with whom we've lost touch. To that end, the Chimes Outreach Group (COG) subcommittee sent a survey in summer 2015, which you hopefully received. (If you did not, please email [chimes@cornell.edu](mailto:chimes@cornell.edu), and we will happily send one along.) "What aspects of the chimes interest you the most?" was the survey question that produced the most interesting answers. Respondents most enjoy stories from other chimesmasters, the instrument's history, and idiosyncrasies of bellplaying. Look for more stories and features along these lines in this and future editions of the Cornell Chimes newsletter!

Following the survey, COG has invited council members to contact chimesmaster classmates to reconnect over our unusual and memorable shared experiences playing bells. COG aims to build friendships, expand our chimes living history, and broaden public awareness of a musical organization like no other.

The Cornell Chimes are played more frequently, reach a wider audience, and offer a better visitor experience than any other chime out there (and probably most carillons too). I know I am biased, but we also have the best people. CAC is so grateful for the alumni support (financial and otherwise) that keeps McGraw Tower ringing strong!

*The Chimes Advisory Council (CAC) is a group of alumni chimesmasters who meet annually with current chimesmasters and university staff to strengthen and support the Cornell Chimes program. For more information, contact [chimes@cornell.edu](mailto:chimes@cornell.edu).*

## Erwin Chan Memorial Concert

**A**s mentioned in last year's newsletter, chimesmaster Erwin Chan '00 passed away in January 2015. In May, the chimesmasters performed a memorial concert in his honor. Seven of Erwin's arrangements were played during the hour-long evening concert. There were solo pieces, duets, and Erwin's famous trio version of the second movement of Beethoven's *7th Symphony*.

We were so touched that Erwin's family was able to join us for our tribute. His brother and mother flew from Hong Kong for the event, and his sister and her family drove from Boston. In addition to Erwin's family, a number of chimes alumni came to the concert, as well as local friends and professors who knew Erwin. After the concert, the chimesmasters gathered at Aladdin's in Collegetown to share memories.

## Mark Your Calendar

**February 5–April 30**

*Annual chimesmaster competition.*

**March 26–April 3**

*Spring Break; concerts infrequent.*

**May 11**

*Classes end; study period schedule begins.*

**May 28–29**

*Commencement weekend; concerts, open house, and senior recital.*

**May 30**

*Summer schedule begins; concerts infrequent.*

**June 9–12**

*Cornell Alumni Reunion Weekend; many concerts to be performed, including our chimes donor appreciation concert. Alumni chimesmasters are encouraged to play!*

**August 23**

*Classes begin; regular concerts resume.*



Halloween visitors gather around the playing stand to play the great chord (when all the bells ring out at once at the stroke of midnight).