

# The Cornell Chimes Newsletter

## News and Notes from the Cornell Chimesmasters

Winter 2014 ♦ Number 47

### Busy Chimesmasters Travel to Boston and Engage with Campus Chimesmasters Corner

Keiran Cantilina '15 and Barrett Smith '14, Head Chimesmasters

As the cold continues and the snow is piling up, this winter looks to be on the lower end of the bell curve. The chimes are ringing all the same, and the cold and snow have given us the excuse to play more winter-themed music, so there is some silver lining. This has been another eventful year for the chimes, and so let's take it from the beginning.

Last January, the chimesmasters took a road trip to Boston! Despite some terrible weather and unforgiving road conditions, we visited several bell instruments in the area including the chime attached to the Christian Science Mother Church in Boston and our 21-bell sister chime in Winchester. We also visited the 11-bell chime at First Unitarian Society in Newton (FUSN), which is currently played by several chimes alumni! It was wonderful getting to connect with the Boston alumni while playing the FUSN bells and at lunch afterwards. Road trips like these give us an opportunity not only to meet with alumni but also to learn more about other bell instruments, share musical ideas, and gain a better appreciation and understanding for our own chime.

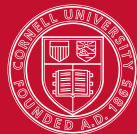
In February, we had clock face decorations to accompany the Valentine's Day concert for the first time. Taking inspiration from the festive pumpkin grins that are used to decorate the visage of the tower during Halloween, Jenny Xia '13 and Keiran Cantilina '15 created masks to transform the clock faces into hearts for Valentine's Day.

From February to April, the annual competition proceeded as usual. We are excited to have Ilia Karp '15, Charlie Xu '16, and Emily Graf '16 join our ranks this past spring! We had five chimesmasters graduate last year: Erica Ho, Jenny Xia, Renée Setter, Peter Im, and Bryan Chong. Accordingly, we had three concerts every day during senior week, allowing delinquent seniors many last chances to climb the tower before graduating.

While summer can sometimes be a quiet time for the bells, there were three student chimesmasters, Charlie Xu '16, Ilia Karp '15, and Barrett Smith '14, in Ithaca this past summer who managed to put on a concert each day for much of June and July. Barrett and Ilia performed 12 wedding concerts over the course of the summer. Barrett also had the honor of playing for a wedding that took place atop the tower. It was a small ceremony to be sure, but it sure was something



Happy Valentine's Day! The Empire State Building has nothing on McGraw Tower! Photo by Keiran Cantilina '15.



Cornell University

to see the bride climb the spiral staircase in her dress!

As the fall semester started, we were bombarded with many tour requests from engineering orientation groups. We set a cap at 10 tours, and readily filled this quota. It was encouraging to see new chimesmasters Charlie Xu '16 and Emily Graf '16 enthusiastically leading tours. The chimesmasters this year are doing a wonderful job of playing, and the campus is noticing.

One of the initiatives recently launched is the Cornell Chimes Facebook page ([facebook.com/chimes.cornell](https://facebook.com/chimes.cornell)). As of the time of this writing, about a year and a half after starting the page, the Cornell Chimes has 569 "likes". We have found it to be a very valuable way of interacting with the greater Cornell community, with our more popular posts being viewed by thousands of individuals. Through the page, we have been able to receive and respond to requests and questions, create and invite people to chimes events, as well as share a lot of wonderful pictures of the tower. Currently, Charlie Xu '16 is in charge of generating content for the page, and he has been doing a wonderful job of posting little tidbits of information about the chimes and chimesmasters.

*"This winter looks to be on the lower end of the bell curve."*

In December, the chimes accompanied the annual Sage Chapel Christmas Vespers with the traditional prelude and postlude. For the first time, we were joined at the top of the tower by a group of Glee Club and Chorus members! It's not often that two of Cornell's oldest musical traditions get together, and having our carols accompanied with song was a rare treat. We look forward to seeing them at the top next December!


As the spring approaches, we have many things to look forward



The 2012-13 Cornell Chimesmasters, together with Rich Johnson '80 and Bob Feldman '66 visit the Winchester 21-bell chime with their host John Russell '53.

to. As always, the competition has started up, and the tower is constantly flooded by hopeful competes attempting to master "the Rag" and other Cornell songs. We're also looking at the possibility of a road trip in the coming weeks, as our masterclass originally slated for this academic year will need to be held in the fall due to scheduling conflicts.

As a senior in my last semester, I cannot help but reflect on what a journey Cornell has been, and on my time as a chimesmaster. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity and experience of learning to play the Cornell Chimes and getting involved in this way with the greater Cornell community. I am already looking forward to coming back!

*Barrett Smith (BTS) is a senior studying Biological Engineering. He is getting married in June and hopes to be employed shortly thereafter. Keiran Cantilina (KKC) is a junior Biology major, concentrating in Plant Science. He's excited to experience life abroad during his two-month internship in Taiwan this summer. This year two head chimesmasters are leading the program. Barrett Smith served as head chimesmaster for the fall 2013 semester and Keiran Cantilina took on the role this spring. Weijia Chen '14 is coordinating the chimes competition this year. Look for her separate article about this year's competition.* 

### **Unrestricted Chimes Program Endowment Reaches First Milestone** **Frank Russell '58, '60 and Scott Silverstein '08, Chimes Advisory Council Co-Chairs**

The Chimes Advisory Council (CAC) is proud to report that we reached our first fundraising milestone! The new Unrestricted Chimes Program Endowment has passed the \$100,000 mark. It was just three summers ago that Judy Ogden '71, '75, '77 and Daniel Zlatin MS '80 stood up and challenged the



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Please contact us with your comments and feedback or if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

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reunion group to take on the endowment. There was much debate as to whether we could reach the \$100,000 initial endowment threshold within three years of inception, and here we are! By reaching the initial threshold, the Cornell Chimes will be receiving annual payouts; we can expect roughly 15% budget offset for the next year.

To celebrate the achievement, we enjoyed a special luncheon preceding our latest CAC meeting on October 19, 2013. Susan Murphy, vice president for Student & Academic Services, attended to express her congratulations and to focus us on our long-term goal: \$850,000 to make the chimes completely self-sufficient.

At our meeting we took a number of steps towards achieving this lofty goal, including the formation of a think tank to brainstorm ways to discover new donors and raise excitement for

our mission. We also discussed setting a second, intermediary goal, such as \$250,000 to help us reach our ultimate milestone. Margaret Hobbie '72, Taras Czebiniak '06, and Jenny Xia '13 joined Daniel on this vital subcommittee, and we look forward to hearing their ideas. Many, many thanks to all who have contributed to make this endowment possible... keep it up!

At the October meeting we also discussed the next all chime-master reunion. The reunions have occurred roughly every ten years, but it was agreed that summer 2018 would be fitting for the next reunion, as the Cornell Chimes will celebrate their 150th anniversary. Over the next four years, one of the CAC goals is to improve communications with all alumni chime-masters. We are hopeful that if we are able to better connect with each other, we will be able to set a record for reunion attendance in 2018. Look for more to come!



**Thank you to our generous alumni and friends for their gifts to the chimes general fund, the new unrestricted program endowment, and to the Sibal and Novakovic Endowments over the past year (fiscal year July 2012-June 2013).**

**Your gift today will make an immediate and lasting impact on the Cornell Chimes program.**

Mrs. Betty F. Allen '45  
Ms. Kathryn Kraus Bolks '91  
Dr. Sean M. Bolks '90  
Ms. Kristin Overgaard Bond '85  
Mr. Robert D. Bond  
Dr. Nancy G. Brown '85  
Mr. Timothy B. Brown '84  
Mr. Kevin M. Casey  
Ms. Lauren F. Casey '02  
Mr. Bryan Hau Foo Chong '13  
Mr. Taras M. Czebiniak '06  
Ms. Marcy Dubroff '84  
Ms. Judith S. Epstein '69  
Mr. Alan R. Erickson '03  
Mr. Robert L. Feldman '66, GR  
Mrs. Susan Goodman Feldman '67  
Ms. Maura M. Flatley GR  
Mr. Irving M. Friedman '37  
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Mrs. Faith G. Hall '46  
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Mr. Daniel R. Zlatin 'GR  
Dr. Sherrie E. Zweig '79



## Alumni Notes

It has been a busy and joyful year for many of our alumni and friends. And for a few, we bid farewell. Thank you for sharing your updates, we love to hear from you.

**Liz (Wallis) Grethen '02** writes, "It's been some time since I've sent in an update- I believe since our daughter Eleanor (El-lie) was born in September, 2012. She is growing fast and well loved by her older sister Sophie (3) and brother Marcus (6). We moved just a few months before El-lie was born, but still within Carmel, Indiana. We have been introducing music to the children through the Music Playhouse music classes. Marcus and Sophie are learning how to keep rhythm. I hope they continue to grow their love of music- perhaps chimes are in their future!"

Classmate **Waitz Ngan '02** reports, "We are doing well here in Chicago, experiencing the coldest weather I've ever experienced. I'm still working as a hospitalist and Adam is a cardiology fellow at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Aila is now 13-month-old and we feel very busy despite only having one child! I hope all is well on the Hill! I miss it so!"

Speaking of busy mothers, **Melody (Hung) Wong '03** shared this update: "It seems like all the news we ever have is baby news! Last August, Timothy (6lbs 11oz) and Elizabeth (6lbs 12oz) were welcomed into our family by one big sister and two big brothers. They are quite different as twins go. Elizabeth likes to sleep all day while Timothy likes to stay awake. We are tremendously blessed but very busy!" The twins join three older siblings Ruth (5), Andrew (3), and Daniel (20mos).



Wong, party of 7! Melody '03 and Raymond Wong's five beautiful children.

As parent to now 3-year old twins, **Gretchen Ryan '97** wrote of Melody's update, "5 kids under 6 years old. Wow – those are some strong parents! I'm sure the chimes competition and Cornell undergrad degree prepared her well for that level of physical challenge and sleep deprivation!"

Keeping on the baby topic, several other babies have joined the growing Cornell Chimes family in the past year. The editor Marisa LaFalce '96 welcomed Matthew last March, joining big brother Thomas (7) and sister Allegra (4). And **Bob Feldman '66, '75** became a grandfather for the first time in January. Like the devoted chimesmaster that Bob is, rumor has it, grandson Milo already has his first chimes t-shirt!

**John '56, '57 and Mary Jane Hoare** had different grandchildren news. "Our granddaughter Alyssa Cowles decided to do Cornell in 3 1/2 years and graduated on December 21. She is a 4th generation Cornelian! We only had 3 college graduations in 2013 which is quite enough for poor grandparents." We wish her luck and will miss seeing Alyssa who often joined her grandparents for Chimes Advisory Council dinners.

On a more musical note, several chimes alumni continue to fuel their passion for bells even though they're far from Cayuga's Waters. **George Ubogy '58** wrote, "At a luncheon with the local superintendent of schools, I found myself volunteering to expose high school students in music classes to playing a chime in a local church. Whether this will result in taking interested students up into the bell tower and demonstrating bell ringing, or actually becoming a mentor to those students who wish to learn to play the bells, remains to be seen. But all of us guys have an unusual skill, some of us may be able to access a bell tower, and may choose to 'spread the word'."

The Newton, Massachusetts Unitarian Church, 11-bell chime a/k/a Cornell Chimes East also rings proudly thanks to a devoted group of Cornell Chimes alumni. **Bob Feldman '66, '75** together with **Cathy (Jordan) Longley-Cook '03, '05**, and **Scott Silverstein '08** joined some of the other chimers at the First Unitarian Church in

West Newton to play a Christmas Eve service. This follows their summer concert series earlier this year. The Newton chiming group also reunited recently when **Keiran Cantilina '14** arrived for a visit to play the bells along with **Bob, Jenny Xia '13**, and **Kathryn Barger GR '08**. If you're ever in the Boston area be sure to give them a ring!

You may have read of bell-related travel in Jennifer Lory-Moran's newsletter article, but she's not the only chimesmaster who enjoyed some European bells. **Mike Mage '55** sent us this update, "Last September, Rose and I found ourselves in Cork, Ire-



Mike Mage '55 on the roof of St. Anne's Church, Cork, Ireland. Photo by Rose Mage '56.

land as we were returning home from Europe by ship. At the Butter Museum (!), we heard about the chime at St. Anne's Church close by.

"The church has a chime of 8 bells, one octave (dating to the 18th century and recast twice) that are played by pulling on ropes in a vertical frame, connected the cables to the clappers. Visitors are encouraged to play the bells, which of course I did. The ropes are hard to pull. It's best to pull them straight out from the frame, as if pulling on a bowstring. Wear gloves. I was lucky to have a pair of woolen gloves with me, which were ruined, but it was worth it. Pentatonic tunes that fit within an octave (e.g. 'Amazing Grace') work best."

Through the course of the year we continue to welcome alumni chimesmasters and friends back to the tower – many who enjoy playing the bells. Some highlights included the numerous alumni who returned for Cornell Alumni Reunion in



Reunion, 2012. From left, Erica Ho '13, Weijia Chen '14, Irving Friedman '37, Barrett Smith '14, Jenny Xia '13, and Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, '97. Photo by Marisa LaFalce.

June. The reunion featured a **Class of '58 concert** performed by **George Ubogy** in honor of their 55th reunion. We also welcomed many alumni for the annual **Chimes Advisory Council** meeting in October. If you are making your way to Ithaca, please contact us at [chimes@cornell.edu](mailto:chimes@cornell.edu).

We close this edition of Alumni Notes on a sad note, as two of our former chimesmasters have passed away in the last year. The honorable **Irving M. Friedman '37** passed away on March 7, 2013. He died peacefully while sitting in his wheel chair listening to a Cornell Chimes CD.

Music and Cornell were central to Irv's life. Up until his last three days, he was still playing the Alma Mater on his player piano, violin and glockenspiel.

Irv was a long-term Cornell class officer. He was buried in his '37 class reunion hat and Cornell tie that he wore so proudly to his 75th reunion.

After Cornell, Irv received an MS from Columbia University School of Public Health in 1942. He was a Sergeant in the 1231st SCU Battalion during World War II in the Pacific theatre. Irv attended NYU Law School on the GI Bill, receiving his JD in 1954.

Professionally, Irv worked with Dr. Howard Rusk in establishing the Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine and in writing New York State's first legislation on access for the handicapped.

He was secretary and then president of the New York Governor's Council for the Handicapped. Subsequently he was an administrative judge handling disability claims for the handicapped.

Through his work in this field, he met Janet Pinner, who was a

world leader in the field of employing the handicapped. They married in December 1966 and spent the next 44 years touring and cruising the world. Their legacy in terms of handicapped access, which included "curb cuts" on sidewalks, will be enduring forever.

Doctor **Nancy Hewlett Keirstead '49** passed away on December 21, 2013 at the age of 86. Nancy came from a family of Cornellians that included her mother, two uncles, her older sister, and later, her niece.

Nancy came to Cornell in 1944, and became one of the first 'chimesmistress' joining **Phyllis McClelland '43**, **Betty Allen '45**, and **Faith Hall '46**. Nancy loved the bells, and her involvement was one of the high points of her time at Cornell.

Nancy graduated from Cornell in 1949 with two undergraduate degrees one in Architecture and a second in Painting and Sculpture. Over the course of her life Nancy nurtured her creative passions both professionally, earning a Masters Degree in Art History, teaching Art, and personally engaging in artistic pursuits from sculpture to ceramics, and bookmaking.

After leaving Cornell she was married and had three children, living primarily in Connecticut, though in Maine in retirement, and eventually in Massachusetts at the end of her life.

She worked in many careers throughout her life, in mid-life, earned her PhD from the University of Connecticut in educational psychology and went on to be a school psychologist, a faculty member at Eastern Connecticut State College, and later to run her own private practice.

When the Cornell Chimes Advisory Council was created in the late 1980s with the vision of tuning the Cornell Chimes, Nancy became involved, and remained active with the council throughout the renovation project.

Sadly the last twelve years of her life were spent battling advancing Alzheimer's disease. Her three children and their families survive Nancy.

Irv and Nancy, you both will be missed.



Nancy Nancy Hewlett Keirstead '49. Photo by Anna Roemer.

## Student Spotlight on Bryan Chong '13, MEng '14 Interviewed by Marisa LaFalce '96

*I met with Bryan on a lovely Wednesday afternoon, as the students travelled to their final exams in the glistening snow.*

*Hi Bryan, thanks for meeting with me. Nice job with the midday concert! You said you had an exam this morning, was it your last one? Yes I am done!*

*Congratulations on finishing your last exam, was this your last concert (of the semester) too?*

I'm not sure how long I will be around... I'll need to rent a car to get down to New Jersey for break, and I haven't quite figured all that out yet. I have a cat now, so I'm still figuring out my travel plans. I'll leave some time in the next couple of days.

*Tell me about your semester. Does it feel different being a graduate student?*

For MEng students (Masters of Engineering), it feels pretty similar to being an undergraduate. The classes are a bit more difficult but for Operations Research, the real work happens with our big project in the spring. The bulk of my semester was also worrying about PhD applications which I just submitted on Sunday, so that took a lot out of me.

It was really nice not having the morning concert this semester though, since I live out by the airport now.

*What made you decide to live out there?*

Pretty much all of my friends graduated so that was part of the reason... I thought the change would be good, and it would give me a chance to get a cat, and the rent is cheaper. Plus I figured being a grad student I'd study more so it would be quiet.

I also got a motorcycle this semester, which I ride to campus usually – when the roads aren't covered in slush - it's been rough the last few days! I tried getting to your house for the chimesmaster holiday gathering (in the snowstorm) but after about 100 feet I turned around!

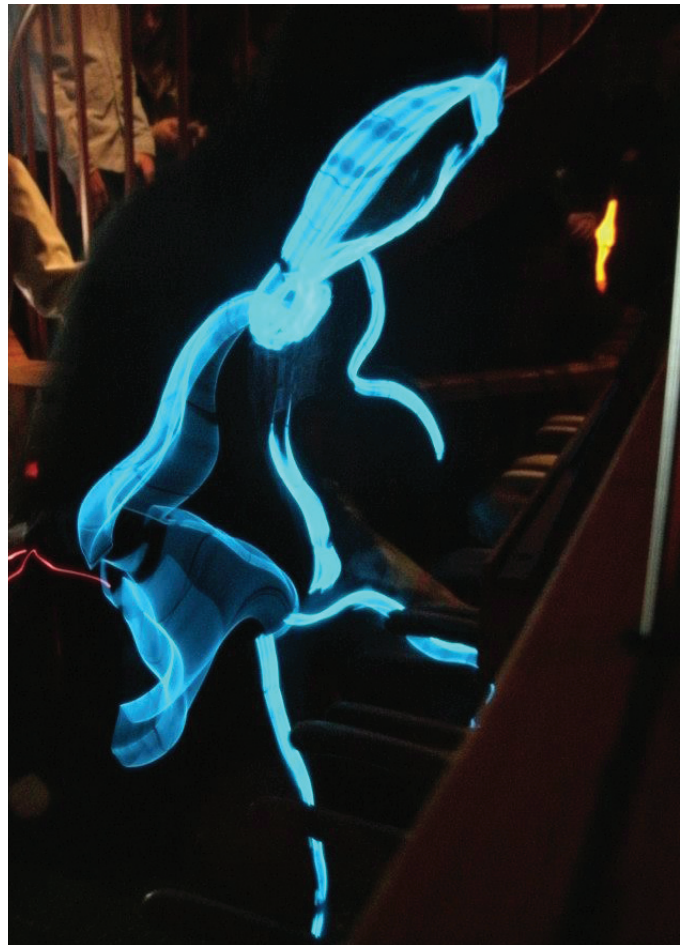
*Good choice, it was a crazy snowy day! You graduated with a major in Operations Research (OR) last year?*

I actually graduated with majors in Math and Economics and a minor in OR, and now I am studying for my Masters of Engineering in OR, it's a one-year program.

*So did that make you an Arts and Sciences undergraduate then? Yes, not Engineering.*

*You've mentioned PhD applications, what field do you hope to pursue for that degree?*

I'd like to study OR. I thought about Applied Math but really I'd prefer OR. I applied to Michigan – an added benefit if I get in there would be that Judy Ogden is there, and they have two carillons, so that would be a bonus. Princeton has a carillon too and that is also on my list.



Who is that blue stick figure and what is he doing? Bryan Chong '13, MEng '14 performs during the annual Halloween concert.

*Did you ever meet SiYi (Wang) Feng '08? She went on to graduate school at Princeton and played the carillon there too, although I think she's since finished her degree.*

Cool. Well its all contingent on who takes me first! I applied to Cornell too so I could be here for a long time.

*I understand you're from Malaysia, but that you're not heading home for break because of the distance. When was the last time you were home?*

I was there last summer, for most of the break at least. I just took a break, relaxed... it was fantastic!

*How did you end up at Cornell four-and-a-half years ago?*

I wanted to go to somewhere abroad and I thought the US had a better education system than the UK. Many Malaysians study in the UK or Australia because Malaysia is a Commonwealth Country.

My major influence was Chen Chow '05, a prominent Malaysian and a huge figure in the US/Malaysian education scene. He has interviewed every Malaysian who applied to Cornell. He spends 12 hours a day of every weekend for 4-months to interview these students. And he spoke so highly of Cornell, anyone who ever wants to study in the US would want to go to Cornell after talking to him. I once went to an

event with him, and he was like “oh the Cornell Chimes – do you know of Kenny Lim ’05?”

*Do you want to go back to Malaysia after you finish all of your graduate studies?*

In a perfect world I would love to go back to Malaysia to a job I wanted, but there is not really anything for me as a Math major... the education system is just not that strong yet.

*You didn't try out for the chimes until you were a junior at Cornell. How did you get connected to the bells?*

I just never got around to it, the first time I learned about it was the info session and I was like “Wow! This is really cool.” I always kept an ear out for the chimes concerts – there was a full year where I walked past the tower every day during concert times. So I would listen to them play.

And Ivana Thng '12 was a chimesmaster and she would put something on the Singapore student list-serve now and then about coming to a chimes concert. I never went, but was aware of it.

I don't think there is a single bell instrument - carillon or chime in SE Asia... at least my quick Google search did not reveal any.

*I do remember, during that competition year, a discussion about class standing because usually we don't accept juniors given how long it takes to master the instrument, and your assurance that you were going to be here for an MEng year.*

I like to think it's a technicality about how the application is worded.

*Well it worked out.... Have you arranged any music or written any compositions for the chimes?*

I haven't written anything, I've arranged about a dozen things and about four have been accepted. It's a very good form of not studying.

*What types of music have you arranged?*

Hmm.... About 80% are from video games. I think its funny, when you tell someone where the music comes from, they immediately don't like it, but if they don't know the origin and just hear it, they like it. There is a lot of good music there.

*Video games? I guess I am surprised!*

## **Your Gift Matters!**

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<http://chimes.cornell.edu/giving.html>.**

There's a bias. But think about it... It's a multibillion-dollar industry so designers are hiring better composers to write video game music. It can have the same impact as a powerful movie score. There's some good stuff out there.

*I remember two years ago, when the chimes hosted the Summer Concert Series, wasn't there a video game themed concert?*

Yes, there was... there was already a lot of video game music in our files – most from really popular games like Super Mario Brothers.

*What pieces do you like to play?*

I can't really think of anything that the pieces I like have in common, there's a real hodgepodge. Lately I've preferred to play the evening-type music than the afternoon music.

*What do you mean by evening type?*

You know, softer, slower, more musicality. Music that demonstrates the chimes aren't just a loud unmusical instrument... there are bells that are like that, but ours are not! *Chimesmasters are required to read music and obviously you didn't grow up playing bells in Malaysia, what is your musical background?*

I played the piano for a long time – probably about 20 years now.

*Do you still play?*

Yes, now and then –maybe about once a week, not as much as when I took lessons. The piano in the tower helps a lot, it's easy to just go in there and play.

*I enjoy the added music of both the practice stand and the piano when I walk by the tower. Do you play any other instruments?*

I dabbled in guitar and violin a little bit but for the most part just piano.

*What do you like to do in your free time?*

I don't know, sometimes I just like to not do anything. Just sit on the Internet and not do anything or hang with my cat. Other times I like to play video games.

*I imagine things have changed some since graduating and many of your friends have left.*

Yes that's true.

*So you've got chimes, school, you're a TA for a class. Are you going to TA next semester?*

Yes, I just paid a huge vet bill for my cat so I definitely need a TA job next semester! If you have a pet, pet insurance is totally worth it!

*Are you involved in any clubs and organizations?*

I use to play a lot with the Ultimate Frisbee team... and we're quite good. Its pretty time consuming though - we usually practice two or three hours a day, five days per week. The Frisbee team is actually pretty good; they've been nationally ranked.

*Continued on next page.*

*Chong interview continued...*

*That's cool, did you travel with the team?*

Yes it was extremely time consuming, four times a semester we were gone away to a tournament for a full weekend. It was great but really took a lot of time. I probably would have stayed with it if I hadn't gotten injured, but it was worth it for a time.

*You said something earlier about the Singapore student list, is there a lot of overlap?*

Yes, well the countries (Malaysia and Singapore) are next to each other so it's nice to have some connection to cultures that are similar to yours. We help each other a lot and send stuff to both lists and help with events. The only difference is there are probably ten times as many Singaporeans as Malaysians here at Cornell.

*Do you travel much? I know that is common with many of our international students when home is so far from Ithaca.*

I did a lot of travelling freshman and sophomore year – I did a couple of trips mostly around Europe, in part because when you fly back and forth to Malaysia there is usually a connecting flight in London. But after awhile my funds wore out.

Over the breaks we don't have a home to go to so naturally we (Malaysians) travelled a lot... but now I just relax at Erica's house (Erica Ho '13), which is very convenient and much more relaxing.

*And do you speak many languages?*

My national language is Malay but English is my best language... that is what I speak at home. I also had to learn Mandarin (Chinese) because I am Chinese.

*Why were you required to?*

Because I am Chinese (ethnically and went to a Chinese elementary school) I was expected to learn it. But I am a Malaysian citizen (I was born in Malaysia).

*And your parents?*

Yes they are Malaysian as well. My grandfather emigrated from China.

*It's been great to get to know students like you, Kenny (Lim'05), Ivana (Thng '12), I've gotten to learn more about that part of the world... and realize what a melting pot of cultures it is.*

Yes in Malaysia it is somewhat forced, but only about 60% of Malaysians are Malay.

*We then went on to have a discussion about cultural stereotypes and values, music and education. Is there anything else that you would like to add here that perhaps I didn't ask you?*

Not that I can think of. I think we all need to practice more! Especially with the competition coming, I want to make sure we're all at a high standard.

*That sounds good to me! Keep up the good work Bryan!*



## Bell Travels Abroad

### Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, '97 Chimes Advisor

Last summer, our family had the opportunity to take a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Netherlands, where, thanks to some of the connections I have made through the GCNA, I was able to tour and play a number of carillons that few outsiders ever get to see. These towers, all built in the 1600's, were not designed for visitors. (As a result, many of my observations during the trip were focused more on the harrowing trips up and down the tower than the particulars of the keyboards or bell harmonics!) Excerpts from my travel diary follow – I've only included the bell-related details, but be assured that the week was full of plenty of other exciting adventures as well!

#### Tues. July 30, 2013 - Amsterdam

After eating pannenkoeken and poffertjes at The Pancake Bakery, we went to the Westerkerk to meet up with Boudewijn Zwart. I met Boudewijn at GCNA in 2010. He was very welcoming when I emailed him and asked if I could visit him at one of the (four!) towers he plays at in Amsterdam. Also, carillonneur Geert d'Hollander came up from Antwerp, Belgium for the day when he found out we were "in the area." Mark and Fiona got to see what circular, steep, insane tower steps can look like. The steps were stone and spiral and narrow to start, with a rope to hold if needed instead of a railing. Later there were wooden stairs so steep that I would need to go down backwards on the way out. Mark also enjoyed seeing his first automatic drum – it plays the songs on the bells like a music box on steroids.

Boudewijn's playing was phenomenal. He frequently played the most rapid notes with single fingers, like on a piano keyboard, instead of using a full hand. And he barely used any music. He also insisted that Geert and I play as well. I played Grünwald's "Studie in D" from one of Jo Haazen's introductory carillon books (no foot pedals needed!) and Keith Jenkins '93 "Arrival in New Haven" duet that I brought from Cornell. (That was when I learned the difference between playing a piece in C minor on an instrument that has mean-tone tuning, as opposed to Cornell's equal-tempered tuning. It's one thing to know about this in theory; it is very differ-



Westerkerk in Amsterdam (1658, 51 bells).  
Photo by Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, '97.



ent to hear three flats on a mean-toned instrument in person!) At the end, all three of us improvised on "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" together. It was terrific fun!

The Westerkerk bells are in the church that is steps away from where Anne Frank and her family hid during World War II. I read her diary before our trip, and she described hearing the bells from her hiding place and using them to tell the time. At one point, she also mentioned that the bells had stopped ringing and that there was a rumor that they had been melted down by the Germans, but Boudewijn explained to us that the bells had been saved thanks to their historical status. (They were cast in the 1600's by the Hemony foundry.) It was very emotional to know that I was playing the same bells that had connected Anne with the outside world during those terrible years.

### Wed, July 31, 2013 - Enkhuizen

Today we headed north to the city of Enkhuizen with my friend Gerda Peters. I met Gerda two years ago at the GCNA/WCF



Zuidertoren in Enkhuizen (1674, 52 bells).  
Photo by Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, '97.

Congress in Kirk-in-the-Hills, and we made a very strong connection. We've stayed in touch over email, which has helped me practice Dutch and her practice English.

Gerda took us up the Zuidertoren, a climb that involved steep circular stone stairs, steeper wooden stairs, a room full of zigzagging cables, and then old wooden ladders that were not secured at the top or bottom. Fiona did great with the climb and was very careful, and we all made it to the top uneventfully. Gerda

played a delightful concert with a number of popular and children's songs included. She and I played a duet (with a very simple part for me), and I sight-read two other pieces from a book she had.

The tower we played in was originally used as a lighthouse for the Zuider Zee. Enkhuizen is right on the water and was a thriving fishing village before the dike was built that turned the saltwater sea into a freshwater lake.

### Fri, August 2, 2013 - Alkmaar

We went to Alkmaar today to see the famous "kaasmarkt" (cheese market) that happens every Friday from April through September. When we arrived at the kaasmarkt, it was terribly hot and packed with people. During the opening ceremonies,



Waagtoren in Alkmaar (1688, 47 bells) with cheese market in foreground. Photo by Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, '97.

Gerda was introduced as the carillonner and waved to the crowd from the top of the Waagtoren (Weigh House tower). We watched men in traditional clothing throw and carry and weigh lots of cheese, carrying on a custom that has taken place in Alkmaar since 1622. Later, Gerda met me at the base of the Weigh House and introduced me to a tour guide, who gave me a private tour of the Cheese Museum. (I thanked him by giving him a copy of the newest Cornell Chimes CD!) Then I went up the Waagtoren with Gerda, where there was a wonderful view of the kaasmarkt happening below. At the top of the tower, I also met Peter, a young man whose job was to stand at the top of the bell tower with a megaphone that played bird noises to scare birds away from the cheese below. Seriously.

Gerda played a total of three carillon concerts at the Waagtoren that morning – then we dashed across town to St. Laurens' Church (or the Grote Kerk) where she had two more concerts to play. At St. Laurens', Gerda, Fiona and I climbed steep spiral stone stairs all the way to the ceiling of the cathedral. Then, we walked along a catwalk that was hidden in the rafters above the curved ceiling of the cathedral. Up some more wooden stairs and we found ourselves in the skinny belfry of St. Laurenstoren.

*Cotinued on next page*

*Congratulations to our May 2013 graduates Bryan Chong, Erica Ho, Peter Im, Renee Setter, and Jenny Xia*


*Bell Travels Abroad continued...*

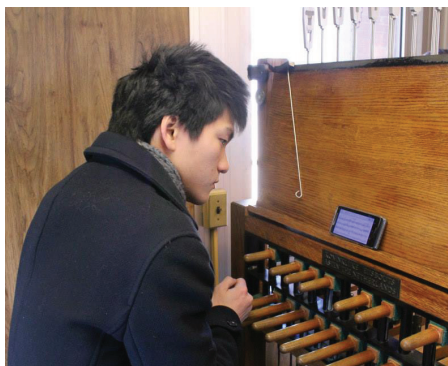
Between Gerda's two concerts in this tower, we listened to an organ recital on the church's Schnitger organ from a secret perch at the height of the cathedral ceiling. Fiona delighted in being high above the visitors in the church (while I tried not to envision us all plummeting to our deaths...) I had the chance to play the carillon in this tower as well – repeating the “Studie in D” and playing my own arrangement of “Poor Wayfaring Stranger” (another piece in a key poorly suited to a mean-tone instrument.)



St. Laurenstoren (or Grote Kerk) in Alkmaar (1689, 35 bells).  
Photo by Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, '97.

All together, I had the chance to climb four bell towers and play the instruments in three of them. But for every tower I had the chance to climb in the Netherlands, there were dozens that I didn't. It is amazing how many bell towers and carillons there are – during the days we spent in Amsterdam, we could hear bells morning, noon, and night. Hopefully one day I will have a chance to return to the Low Countries and visit a few more!

*While this was a personal trip, the author would like to extend her gratitude towards both the Cornell Chimes program and the many alumni and friends who made it possible for her to attend the Guild of Carillonneurs Congresses in the past. In addition to learning and bringing back conference ideas to the program, it was through these congresses that she was able to make these personal connections.* 



Bryan Chong '13, MEng '14 plays the carillon at the Christian Science Mother Church in Boston, during a road trip last year. He is reading music from our digital library on his iPhone!


## Cornellians Eager to Join Storied Chimes Program Through 10-Week Competition

Weijia Chen '14, Chimes Competition Coordinator

Each year the Cornell Chimes program recruits our newest chimesmasters through an annual 10-week competition. The term competition is a bit of a misnomer, since it's more of a test of skill to see how the “competes” progress over the 10-week period, rather than how they relate to one-another.

With the new academic calendar in effect, the competition schedule is now slightly different from before. A newly introduced four-day February Break, which begins on Saturday February 15 and lasts through Tuesday February 18 in 2014, falls between Week 2 and Week 3 in our 10-week competition structure. As a result, Week 3 now begins on Wednesday, immediately following February Break, and Weeks 3 and 4 form a Wednesday-to-Tuesday cycle as opposed to the usual Sunday-to-Saturday.

The silent audition, traditionally scheduled to be on a Friday toward the end of Week 4, is now shifted earlier to a Wednesday, leaving three days between the end of Round 1 (the audition Wednesday) and the start of Round 2 (Sunday). These additional days should allow plenty of time for second-round competes to practice for their very first concert out loud. In the past few years, second-round competes were only expected to play the required Cornell song and an additional piece of their choice at their first concert. Because of the earlier audition, we now require them to play for the full 15 minutes. Will the competes find it more beneficial or more stressful? We will find out in a month.

As of February 3, we have received 29 applications from 19 freshmen, 8 sophomores, and 2 staff members. We are excited to see them in the tower, and wish them all best of luck! 

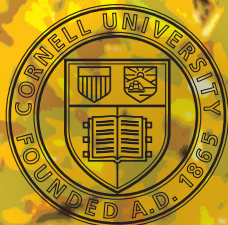
### Two Great Ways to Stay Connected with the Cornell Chimes, Alumni and Friends, Throughout the Year...

**Join the chimes alumni email list-serve!** A list-serve is simply a collection of addresses that receive an email when sent to just one address. If you are interested in subscribing, **your email address has changed**, or you would like more information about this list, email [chimes@cornell.edu](mailto:chimes@cornell.edu).

If you use Facebook, **join the Cornell Chimes Facebook page** at <https://www.facebook.com/chimes.cornell> and become part of the chimes fan community! Check the page often to view current and alumni photos, learn about chimes events, and test your Cornell Chimes fact knowledge!

# The Cornell Chimes

*Music  
from the Tower*



*Enjoy the Cornell Chimes in Your Own Home!*

*Music from the Tower*, is the latest recording in the Cornell Chimes music collection. This 23-song compact disk is grouped into five categories:

Cornell Songs, Original Compositions, World, Classical, and Popular Music.

The CD program was compiled to highlight the diverse array of music that rings daily from McGraw Tower and to showcase the chimesmasters' incredible musical talents.

This CD is available exclusively at the Cornell Store. Learn more at [chimes.cornell.edu/merchandise.html](http://chimes.cornell.edu/merchandise.html).



The Cornell Chimes  
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*Think Spring!*

**As the weather warms, we hope you'll consider a trip to McGraw Tower. Key dates to help you plan.**

**February 2-April 27**

Annual chimesmasher competition.

**March 29-April 6**

Spring Break; concerts infrequent as most chimesmasters away from campus.

**May 7**

Classes end, study period schedule begins.

**May 24-26**

Commencement weekend. Concerts, open house and senior recital.

**May 27**

Summer schedule begins - concerts infrequent.

**June 5-8**

Cornell Alumni Reunion Weekend - many concerts to be performed. Alumni chimesmasters are encouraged to play!

**August 26**

Classes begin, regular concerts resume.