

Cornell University Cornell Chimes

Newsletter of the Cornell Chimesmasters and McGraw Tower

Presentation - October 7, 1868

Francis M. Finch

*The following is an excerpt from the compilation *Bells of Cornell* published in 1928 and edited by Albert W. Smith, 1878.*

Francis M. Finch was a friend and legal adviser of Ezra Cornell; later he was Justice of the Court of Appeals of New York State, and afterward was Dean of the Cornell Law School. At the inauguration exercises of Cornell University, October seventh 1868, Mr. Finch gave an address on behalf of Miss Jennie McGraw, presenting the original chime to the University. This notable address, in part and slightly revised, follows here:

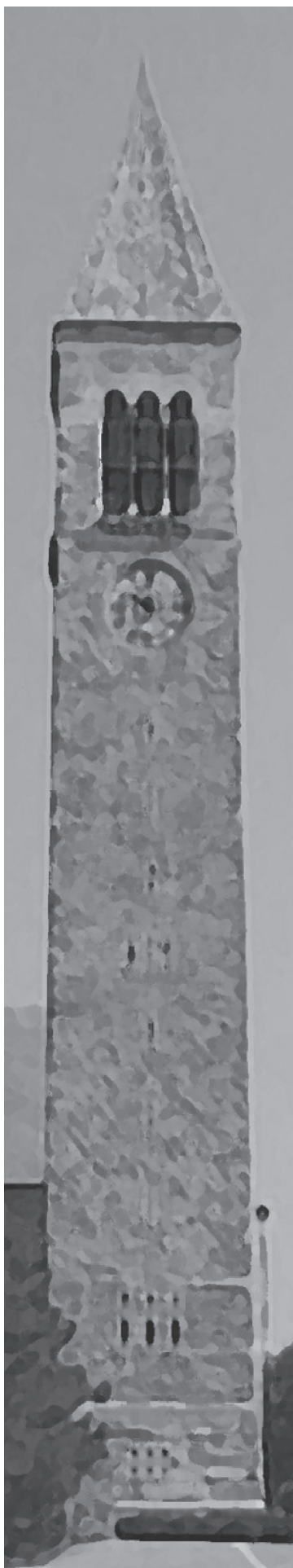
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Board of Trustees: I am commissioned by Miss McGraw to present to you this chime of bells for the use of the University; and to ask your acceptance of the gift as a token of her interest in the enterprise which, today, so hopefully and bravely begins its work.

She has watched its development, from the dawn of the grand purpose in the mind of its projector through clouds that often obscured, and amid storms that sometimes assailed it, until now, as it emerges into sunlight and begins its generous toil, she brings you this useful and beautiful gift, with as much pleasure in the giving as you, I am well assured, will feel in receiving it at her hands.

The same energy and rapidity of execution which in a few brief years has given us a University, manned and equipped, and ready to begin its centuries of work, has enabled her to give you these bells today. In eighteen days they were moulded, cast, brought to these hills, and placed on their temporary abode, waiting to add their music to the general joy, and to weave into melody the hope and happiness of the hour.

Of these bells there are nine. One of them is the worker of the flock. It will call your young men from their slumbers; summon them to each of the duties of the day; send them to the classroom and lecture; parcel out the hours and guide and rule the days, with a voice commanding and uncompromising it may be, but with an undertone of melody which cannot fail to suggest the brave and vibrant pleasure that underlies all healthful work both of teacher and scholar.

The other bells-silent while the imperious worker clangs his call to work-will add their voices daily, and will ring their solemn chimes upon the eve of the New Year, and their exultant notes on the festivities of the Nation, reserving their clearest and purest



tones for that day of the University set apart to the faithful remembrance of the generous heart and toiling hand that has sent this crown of learning on the hills.

Young Gentlemen of the University, what will these bells say to you? They are the generous gift of a lady; therefore never forget to be gentlemen in the broad and grand old sense which blends honest and useful labor, spotless integrity, respect for age, kindness to young, and charity to all. If a thoughtless expression rises to the lips, if a hand is lifted in the haste of anger, if tempted to ungenerous or uncourteous deeds, let the daily voice remind you that she who gave the bells expects you to blend with your manly strength the kind heart, the generous hand, patient forbearance and thoughtful regard for the rights and feelings of others. If labor grows weary, labor of muscle or brain, if the classic page seems dull, if the fires in the laboratory burn dim, if the rattle of machinery grows painful, and the very stars confused and taunting, rouse yourselves, as the great bell sounds from the tower; for she who gave it, gave it to summon you to work, to steady and regulate the purpose of your lives, to signal not to defeat but to victory. She looks to see you earnest, hopeful, determined workers to the end.

Gentlemen of the Faculty, what will the bells say to you? They are a woman's gift to the institution which is this day placed in your hands. Do not forget, as I am sure you will not, when they summon you to your daily duties, that she who gave them would have you rule the young men committed to your charge by kindness rather than by force; by love rather than law. Students are not captives but guests; let a genial hospitality usurp the place of laws and lurking spies. Students are not natural rebels; if quick, spirited, impulsive, yet more easily guided by the silken rein, the steadying work, the friendly touch, than the bloody bit and the whirl of the vindictive lash. They who urge you to this

rule of love were students once and feel and know that you will never appeal in vain to the instinctive manliness of the student heart.


Gentlemen of the Board of Trustees, what will the bells say to you? I repeat once more: they are a woman's gift. Do not think that while with unselfish purpose she seeks to aid and encourage this noble effort to bring the highest and broadest culture within the reach of young men of the land, she at all forgets, that she can never forget, the need and longing of her sisters all over the nation for the same high culture, the same broad and liberal education. Bid them be patient, if you will, till the enterprise is consolidated, till the time is propitious, and the way clear. But let them see and know meanwhile, that your hand is on the lock of the closed door, waiting only the safe moment to throw it wide that they may enter in and feel the inspiration of lofty aims and noble purposes, and may vindicate not only the swiftness but the strength of the woman mind, while the chimes their sister gave ring clearer and sweeter on the air as they celebrate justice and mercy done at last.


“These bells are now yours-given cheerfully, given gladly, given hopefully; given with the best wishes of a kind heart to all to whom their chime shall ring”

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Board of Trustees, I have only now to fulfill the commission entrusted to me, which is one of the pleasantest duties of my life, with the closing words of gift.

These bells are now yours-given cheerfully, given gladly, given hopefully; given with the best wishes of a kind heart to all to whom their chime shall ring; given in full trust and confidence that you and I, and all who have in any degree the care of this great work will fail in no duty and prove recreant to no trust.

Let the memory of the giver make them sacred; let them ring always harmonies and never discords; let them infuse into the college life, and interweave among the sober threads of practical study and toil some love of art and lines of grace and beauty; let them teach the excellence of order and system.

As I give these bells, in behalf of her whose name I trust their melody will always commemorate, it is fitting perhaps that, no longer standing between them and you, no more seeking feebly to interpret their voices, I should bid them ring their own lesson, chime their own welcome. 



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Chimesmaster's Corner


Lisa Ngai '05, Head Chimesmaster

"How did you first become interested in the Cornell Chimes? Why do you want to become a chimesmaster?" Even though I was the one who added these two questions to this year's compet application form, I myself don't have an answer. When I think back to my freshman year, I honestly can't remember what initially attracted me to the chimes. Of course, I was aware of the chimes. How could any Cornellian not be? But the first time I climbed the tower and actually saw what I was about to be getting myself into was when I went to the informational meeting held at the beginning of the spring semester. I think that as a compet, it was my competitive nature that led me to the chimes more than anything else. I wanted to become a chimesmaster for the honor and distinction of being one of a select few. Once I had decided that I wanted to become a chimesmaster, having a strong musical background definitely helped me reach that goal.

I'm amazed now at how far I've come from being a compet simply interested in "winning" to being a complete "bell geek." Playing the chimes has been the highlight of my time at Cornell, and it will be the thing that I miss most after graduation. As a student in the Hotel School, it's often easy to forget that Cornell extends beyond the walls of Statler Hall. Being a chimesmaster has led me to feel a greater sense of community with Cornell as a whole. Although all of the chimesmasters, past and present, come from a diverse variety of backgrounds and interests, we are somehow all connected by this uncommon, and often unexplainable, interest in 200-5000 pound metal objects that have no function other than to make loud noises! Even though I'm not yet ready to graduate and leave the chimes behind me, I know that when I do leave, the chimes will remain in the capable hands of our remaining current chimesmasters and any new chimesmasters who are chosen from among this year's enthusiastic compets.

All of the extra effort we put into advertising this year seemed to pay off, as we started off the competition with almost forty compets (about fifteen more than recent years). Although the number of compets meant that practice time during the first four weeks was somewhat limited, there were still many strong auditions and nine compets advanced to the second round. One significant change to this year's competition is that during the fifth week of the competition (the first week of playing out loud), the compets shared playing duties with the current chimesmasters, playing only

the required Cornell piece (either the *Jenny McGraw Rag* or the *Cornell Evening Song*) and one other piece of their choice. We hope that this helped to reduce the anxiety of playing out loud for the first time by allowing compets to focus on learning just one new song very well rather than scrambling to find fifteen minutes of music. The two required competition pieces for this year are *Le Secret* by Gautier and *Dolce* from *The Bellman's Suite* by R.H. Lee '41. In addition, we are asking the compets to play the *Cornell Alma Mater* during any one of their four judged concerts.

As we approach the last two weeks of the competition and the judged concerts, I'm looking forward not only to hearing how the compets' skills have progressed, but also to the opportunity to spend some quality time with the chimesmasters as a complete group. Over recent years, it has become a tradition for us to take turns bringing breakfast to share in the mornings. After all, there has to be some benefit to waking up in time for the morning concert for fourteen days straight! Aside from the sheer thrill of playing, these little perks such as group breakfasts are what make being a chimesmaster extra special. I'm very glad for our motto "Once a chimesmaster, always a chimesmaster" and the knowledge that even after graduation, I will still remain a part of this extraordinary group of people known as the Cornell Chimesmasters. 

Top 10 Misconceptions about McGraw Tower and the Cornell Chimes:

10. We have an elevator.
9. Someone runs up to ring the hour bells -every 15 minutes!
8. We get P.E. credit for playing the bells (*yes, this was once true for one of our female chimesmasters*).
7. Any Cornell ID card will open the door to McGraw Tower.
6. Our practice stand is in Lincoln Hall.
5. There's only one chimesmaster who plays all of the concerts, and they bear a striking resemblance to a famous hunchback...
4. We play *O Christmas Tree* every evening.
3. We play by pulling ropes connected to the bells.
2. A computer plays the concerts -mistakes included!

And the number one misconception

1. It's a carillon!



Alumni Notes

Our alumni and friends have had some unusual bell experiences over the past couple of months! We think you'll enjoy reading about their experiences, and we hope that you'll continue to keep in touch with us.

Allegra Schafer '99 paid a visit to New Haven for the Cornell-Yale hockey game in February and got a chance to take her uncle's family up Yale's Harkness Tower. She writes, "The tower tour, concert and view were fabulous! They'll be hosting the GCNA Congress in '06. I also got lost driving around Arlington (Virginia) recently and had an unexpected chance to drive right by the Netherlands Carillon and Iwo Jima Memorial, which are pretty all lit up at night! I also came up to Ithaca at the end of February to do some recruiting of upcoming grads for my company, and I got a chance to play duets with the chimesmasters and also to see **Jennifer Lory-Moran's '96, '97** gorgeous letterbox. My sister and a couple of friends who are all studying in Ithaca, may convince me to come up for the Cornell Vet School open house in April. I might have to miss the Cornell Club of Washington's semi-annual hike of Shenandoah's Old Rag Mountain to make the trip, but the chimes are calling me as usual. Hopefully **Grace (Jean '00)** and I will both be in Ithaca for Reunion."

In addition to welcoming back Allegra, we were pleased to see **Alan Erickson '03, '04** who also came back to town for some hockey games and chimes playing. And with family in town, **Bob Feldman '66, '75** has found several excuses to come back to Ithaca for a visit. Bob had an unusual chimes experience on his most recent trip

back..."I was in Ithaca for the weekend of April 2 and joined **Eric (Hayes '05)** for the midday concert on Saturday. Among the audience on top was a graduate student with her mom and dad; all three were very excited about seeing us play and our letting them play the 1:00 pm hour bell pattern. After the concert, we talked quite a while, and then the father (Mat) asked if I was going to be there on Sunday, I said yes. He asked if we had any polkas, and I remembered we have *Pizzicato Polka*. Mat plays the accordion and had it with him in his hotel room. The plot thickened- we made a copy of the sheet music for him and agreed to meet Sunday morning at 11:30 in the practice room to prepare for a duet at the noon concert.

"We arrived at the appointed hour and started to practice. After the first three notes, I knew something was terribly wrong. It just did not sound right. Then I remembered that Cornell's bells actually sound a half-tone higher than what they are marked. The C bell sounds around C#. We were playing a half-tone apart! This may be acceptable for modern music, but not *Pizzicato Polka*. We thought about trying to transpose, but neither of us could do it on the fly. It was getting close to noon. What to do?

"Mat mentioned that he had brought some accordion sheet music, including *Forsaken Love Waltz*. The bass clef was a simple 1-2-3 pattern, alternating between 4 different chords. We quickly penciled in the half-tone lower chimes chords (G, D, E, A) in each measure and his daughter raced over to Olin Library to make a copy. When she got back, we all hurried up to the playing area and, eureka, the first ever (?) Cornell Chimes and accordion duet took place!


I recorded the duet, so perhaps Mat and I will meet again next year and record more selections. Imagine the CD... *Cornell Chimes and Accordion Duet Favorites by Bob and Mat!*"

As the spring flowers start to bloom, we look forward to the return of many alumni and friends to the Cornell Chimes during alumni reunion weekend in June, and throughout the spring and summer. **John Hoare '56, '57** and his wife Mary Jane will be returning to Peach Orchard Point on Seneca Lake for the summer. John writes, "I look forward to having another picnic for the chimes folks at our place. No doubt our grandchildren will be over to visit the tower while they are with us. It's getting to be a tradition!" We look forward to seeing you too!

Finally, **George Ubogy '58** and his prolific arrangements have broadened his 'name' in the bell community... "I'm getting e-mails on the GCNA



Robert Feldman '66, '75 and Mat Balcetis perform the, perhaps, first-ever, accordion and chime duet!

listserved these days and several months ago, the carillonneur of the Albany (New York) City Hall Carillon, Charles Semowich, put out a request for carillon arrangements of music composed by African-American composers, to be performed on Martin Luther King's birthday. I told him that, although it had been created for a chime, I had arranged *Lift Every Voice and Sing* by J. Rosemond Johnson, which reportedly used to be called the Negro national anthem. My 'submission' must have made the cut, as I received a copy of the program, which included it as the final selection. The program described it as the official song of the NAACP and the arranger as George Ubagy...at least it wasn't Ubaggy!" 

Stay connected with Cornell Chimes alumni and friends throughout the year...

Join the chimes alumni email list-serve!

A list-serve is basically just a "list" of email addresses (in this case, chimesmasters' email addresses). When a message is sent to the list-serve address, *chimes-alum-l@cornell.edu*, the message is sent to all of the people subscribed to the list.

This is a fun way to keep abreast of chimes and bell-related events and stories throughout the year.

If you are interested in subscribing, your email address has changed, or you have additional questions about this list, please email *chimes@cornell.edu*.

Student Spotlight on Kenny Lim '05

As a new feature in the Cornell Chimes Newsletter we are interviewing current chimesmasters so that our alumni and friends may better know the outstanding and dedicated students that play the bells.

Kenny Lim is a senior in the College of Engineering from Malacca, Malaysia, an urban community Southwest of the Malaysian peninsula. He will be graduating in May, and plans to get a job working in the field of engineering, most likely in Malaysia.

What is your major?

Electrical Engineering with a minor in Information Science. I am also completing an Engineering Honors program, researching Digital Signal Processing (DSP).

That sounds like a full load! What is DSP?

Digital signal processing (DSP) is often associated with audio and image processing. Audio signal processing would include designing digital equalizers, voice recognition software, noise reduction systems, etc. My research deals with digital images and how the human brain processes these images. We are trying to come up with a metric that would quantitatively describe the quality of any given image.

Have you taken any courses, outside of Engineering, during your time here?

"Well, last semester I took a cognitive psychology class, and this semester I'm taking a psych course on perception. I was initially interested in taking the psychology classes because of what I am learning about the human mind in my honors research. But I have also found that I can apply many of the things that I am learning in those classes to my research. It's really cool.

That is great! Switching directions, what has it been like (culturally) coming to the US from Malaysia? What are some of the adjustments you've had to make?

One of the cool things is that I don't think age is such a barrier in this country. What I mean is that it is okay to respectfully disagree with older people and persons in authority. I have found that my professors and others can be open to respectful, constructive criticism, which is a positive thing. I think it's a positive balance.

How are the academic environments different? What have you learned in order to succeed here at Cornell?

University life is very different than high school life. One must be much more independent. You are on your own and there are a lot of decisions to make about what I want to do with my life, and the academic choices I make. I have learned stress management and time management skills, which are essential to keep up with the academic rigors. I've also learned the importance of balance between studies and academics and relaxing with friends and social activities.

You learned to play the bells your sophomore year. What attracted you to the chimes initially?

My first semester freshman year, I had an 8 o'clock class every morning, so I would walk across campus and listen to the bells. When I heard the (*Jennie McGraw*) Rag,

Student Spotlight on Kenny Lim '05 - article continued from page 5.

I was so impressed, that I assumed the player was a hired professional. Hearing the song every morning as I walked to class, I got to learn the *Rag* and could even recognize when a player made a mistake! However, I didn't realize that the players were students until a friend tried out for the competition her freshman year. I decided to try out the next year, and became an official chimesmaster during my sophomore year.

Music is an important part of many chimesmasters' lives, what other instrument(s) did you play?

I played violin, piano and guitar. I continue to enjoy playing the piano and the guitar.

What is your favorite chimes piece(s)?

The Cornell Evening Song, The Impossible Dream, Lament, Sonata for Two Bellmen -I enjoy playing the slower pieces. I feel that the instrument has a great range for musical expression, and I enjoy playing the pieces where I have an opportunity to maximize this expression.

Do you have a favorite chimes experience or memory?

I don't have a particular memory that stands out, but I really enjoy the times when all of the chimesmasters are together including our semester gatherings and special events like open houses, Halloween, and our road trips.

Halloween is a great time, what do you think your best Halloween costume was?

It was definitely the year I dressed up as Aladdin!

I think I recognize that sound!

The next time that you log on to the Statler Hotel's website, <http://www.statlerhotel.cornell.edu>, you may hear a familiar ring! The newly designed website features a splash page that plays the *Cornell Evening Song* on the chimes and displays a beautiful photograph of McGraw Tower, central campus, and Cayuga Lake.

A quick visit to the website is a lovely way to bring back memories of sunny days on the Hill!

When you're not studying or ringing bells, how do you enjoy spending your free time?

I enjoy relaxing with friends, cooking, catching the occasional movie, and doing anything musical. I like to play the piano and guitar, as well as arrange music.

What other activities are you involved in on campus? I know that you live in the Holland International Living Center (HILC- a living and learning community on North Campus), have you been involved in any programming there?

I am part of the Hall Council so I help plan events and activities at HILC. Many of our events are culturally related including country nights, discussions about cultural issues, also festivals and celebrations, talent and fashion shows, and the like.

You're also involved with the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO). You worked there last summer, right?


Yes, last summer I was the PREPARE coordinator and spent the summer organizing the PREPARE program, a pre-orientation program for new international students. This fall I began working for ISSO as a student associate helping with programming and events. I've helped coordinate some trips (like to New York City), as well as the annual Thanksgiving Feast and the weekly Coffee Hours. I've been doing some program enhancements for those (the Coffee Hours).

Haven't you also been working on some websites too?

Yes, I helped to design a website for Tsunami Relief (<http://tsunamirelief.cornell.edu>) and I am working on a site for PREPARE so that they can streamline registration and correspondence.

In the past four years you've only had a chance to go back home to Malaysia one time, over a winter break. Have you spent the rest of the time in Ithaca, or have you traveled some?

I have definitely had some opportunities to travel both on the East and West coasts, as well as in Canada before the Visa rules changed. That has been really good; I really enjoy traveling and seeing new places. Some of my favorite places to visit have included Boston (for the chimesmaster road trip), Philadelphia, and San Francisco.

Thanks Kenny! We've appreciated all that you have done for the Cornell Chimes during your undergraduate years here. We'll miss you next year and we wish you luck in your future endeavors! 

My New Hobby

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

Our family's latest hobby is letterboxing. Letterboxing is a combination of hiking, orienteering, problem solving, and stamping that gets us outside solving puzzles together. We love it!


So what is letterboxing? All over the country, people have hidden boxes containing a logbook and a carved rubber stamp. The hider writes clues to the box that can be as detailed, vague, or challenging, as they like. We have followed clues that were as simple as "Walk around the garden and look under the bench" and clues that took us on hikes that were miles long. One puzzle we solved was disguised as a chapter from a Hardy Boys book.

After solving the clues and locating the box, the finder uses the stamp from the letterbox to stamp into his personal logbook, creating a record of the letterboxes he has found. In addition, the finder uses his own personal stamp to stamp into the logbook in the box, "signing in" that he has been there.

We love letterboxing because it has introduced us to many beautiful new places in towns we thought we knew well. It gets us out of the house and active. It has physical challenges, mental challenges and art all mixed into one activity. Letterboxes have been hidden all over the country, so anywhere we might be headed, there's a good chance that we can have a letterbox search while we're there.

Now, for those of you who love a good puzzle, I must recommend the "Chopin's Music Box" letterbox hidden somewhere in Ithaca, New York. The stamp you find at the end of the hike is gorgeous. But what is even more fun, is that the clues are written in a musical code, and even if you never visit the box, you will be so proud when you figure out the way to "read the music."

Are you wondering where to find the clues to all of these hidden letterboxes? Try starting at: <http://www.letterboxing.org>. Hunt around carefully enough and you may find a letterbox in a place you thought you knew quite well -even in a tower near you!

Remember, that any hobby can be related back to the chimes if you just try hard enough! Enjoy! 

Punny or Cacophonous? Groan! You decide!

Our Chimes Advisory Council Co-Chairs, Grace Jean '00 and Bob Feldman '66, '75 have been on a roll since taking on their new positions as co-chairs last year. The following exchange ensued...

Grace, upon realizing they would be CAC co-chairs:
How wonderful it was to hear that we'd be partners in chimes!

Bob, with regard to planning the last CAC meeting:
I'm glad that you're keeping the bell rolling!

Grace, presenting alternatives in an email:
Do any of these strike your bell - er, I mean, fancy?

Grace, commenting on how the co-chairs approach issues together:
I think we are truly birds of a feather (bells of a clapper?)



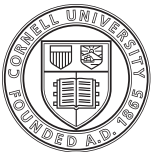
Are you returning to *The Hill* for Alumni Reunion Weekend, June 9-12?

If yes, we hope that you will join us for the events in McGraw Tower to rekindle old memories, form new ones, and enjoy the music of the Cornell Chimes! There is no better way to gain perspective on how the campus has changed than to climb McGraw Tower's 161 steps and view the surroundings from above. And alumni chimesmasters are always encouraged to come back and play the bells, anytime!

Chimes Concerts will be performed Friday at 6:00 p.m., Saturday at 10:45 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m., and Sunday at 10:40 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

The chimesmasters will also be hosting an open house at McGraw Tower on Saturday from 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Refreshments will be served to those that climb all 161 steps!

For additional information, please contact the Cornell Chimes Office. We hope to see you in June!



Cornell University
Cornell Chimes

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