

# Cornell University The Cornell Chimes

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Newsletter of the Cornell Chimesmasters and McGraw Tower

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## Cornell Chimes Refurbishment – A Look Back

Marisa LaFalce '96

It is hard to believe that more than 10 years has passed since that uncharacteristically balmy and sunny morning, November 6, 1999 when the bells were officially rededicated after a year's worth of refurbishment. But the refurbishment story actually started well before that time.

It took a decade of tireless effort by former Cornell Chimes Assistant, the late Monica Novakovic, the Chimes Advisory Council (CAC), and the university to develop a vision and project plan for tuning and then to see those dreams come to fruition. Initially, the mere thought of tuning the bells was radical. Dick Haggard '58, '65, CAC co-chair during the refurbishment recalled, "the most striking memory of the project was learning that tuning could be done! and so logically and controllably. back in about 1989 advisory council co-got us on the path."

Yes, technically the but how would refurbishment was important pieces. alumni and friends, the chimes during and the multi-of McGraw Tower, employee, Jim occurred parallel enabled the bells tower more

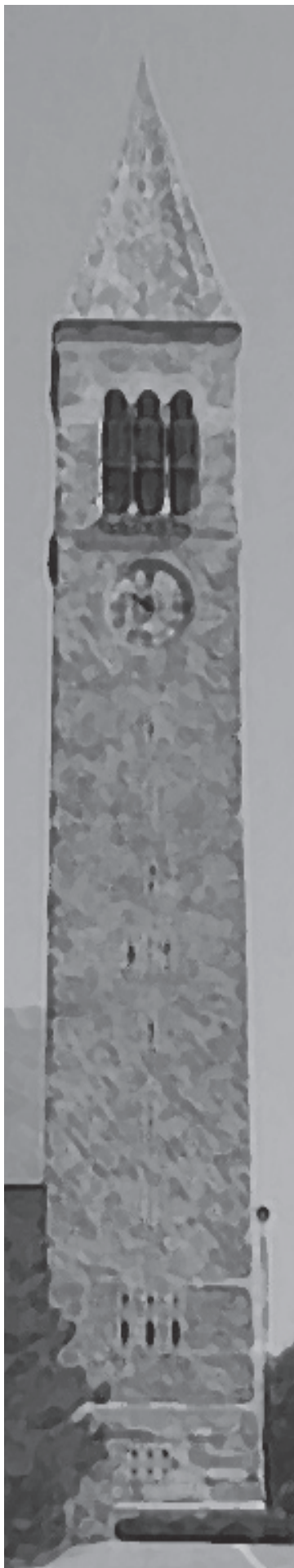
In June 1998, just the bells were taken and transported to in Georgetown, Ohio. One bell was retired (because it was determined that even with tuning, it would not fit the musical profile of the rest of the set), two new bells were cast, and a third Meneely bell was added (from another instrument). This expanded the ensemble from 19- to 21-bells (technically the upper limit of what is considered a chime). Then, Rick Watson tuned the entire set of bells relative to one another. New playing and practice stands were built, and all clappers, links, and connections were replaced. When Meeks and Watson reassembled the bells they were hung in a new steel frame designed to better project their sound.

When asked about the project, Bob Feldman '66, '75, who was the Cornell Chimes advisor and a council member during the refurbishment, wrote, "I remember that the CAC started out with some fear and trepidation, both over the safety of the bells during the project and over



bells could be tuned, we achieve this? The possible because of two The generous gifts of who had been touched by their Cornell experiences, million dollar restoration led by former Cornell Bucko. The renovation to the refurbishment and to be removed from the economically.

after reunion weekend, from McGraw Tower Meeks, Watson and Co.

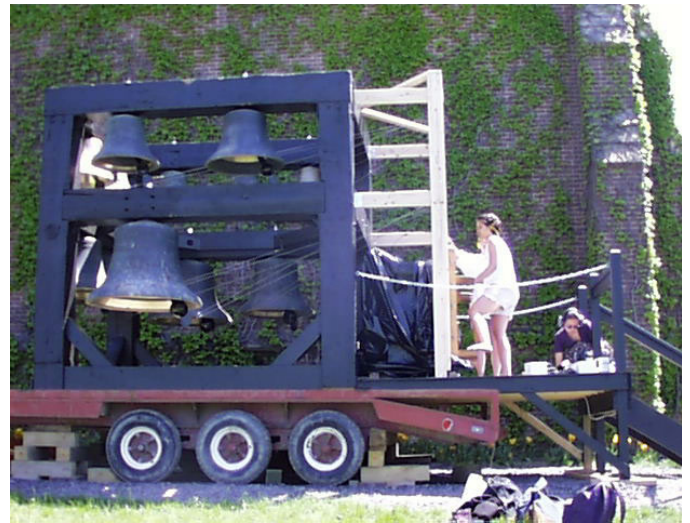


a possible adverse outcome of the tuning. We weren't that familiar with the players, both at the university and at the bell tuners, and were worried the bells might be damaged or that the bells might sound so different that they would no longer be the Cornell Chimes as we knew them. I also remember an evolution in confidence and excitement as we learned more, and as the university involved us in the process, including the wonderful visits to Meeks and Watson. I remember the... incredible joy upon hearing how wonderful the bells sounded after the tuning."

When the university learned that the bells could not be reinstalled in McGraw Tower prior to Cornell Commencement 1999, a plan was devised to mount a subset on a temporary stand for commencement and reunion weekends. The bells had rung out at every single university commencement – why miss one now? Allegra (Schafer) Marcell '99 the Head Chimesmaster in the year without bells said, "Playing those tuned bells for my own commencement was one of the happiest moments of my life."

So was the effort and cost of expanding and tuning the bells worth it? Absolutely. The refurbishment has broadened the musical opportunities of the chimesmasters. When asked about this, Keith Jenkins '93, who still plays today, wrote, "Hearing the refurbished bells, I was impressed by the fine tuning and realized that we could now play in keys further from F and C, which would have previously sounded terribly out of tune. The addition of the low E-flat bell has also expanded the possibilities for arrangements in other keys... Once the full set of bells was fully reinstalled in the tower, I made an arrangement of Bach's 'Pedalexercitium' that used all 21 bells... and we have seen the addition of new arrangements in keys such as B-flat major, E-flat major, and C minor.


"The newer playing stand also offers more opportunities for expression. The weight of the levers, while still varying greatly from low C to high A, smoothly progresses up the scale. The finer mechanical precision of the playing stand and connections to the clappers has given the chimesmasters much greater



Allegra (Schafer) Marcell '99 plays on a temporary stand next to Sage Chapel. The timber frame (used here) is the original frame that supported the bells from 1868 - 1998.


control of the bell, especially at the quieter end of the volume range."

Allegra Marcell added, "I can definitely hear a difference in the overall sound quality of the bells. It's great to have a lever for the high A and an actual low E-flat bell (even if it does confuse my foot). But I think the best part is knowing that the tower and the bells have been given an extension on their functional lives, and so many people have gotten to enjoy playing and listening to their new sound post-project... I think the project has enabled the playing in general to step up to a much higher level. New and current chimesmasters continue to play at a higher and higher level, and I think the focus on musicality and master classes is wonderful."

If you haven't been back to campus since the renovation, don't worry, as lovely as things are, you'll still feel right at home. "The most salient benefit that I experienced with the bell refurbishment is how wonderful they [the bells] sound after being tuned," wrote Bob Feldman. And "the rest of the tower is as good and welcoming as ever," Dick Haggard. 

### Chimesmaster's Corner Ryan Fan '10, Head Chimesmaster

Let me start by wishing you all a happy new year! While I can't believe it's already 2010, if the past few years are any indication, then my next semester on the Hill should be pretty exciting. Not only do we have the chimes competition, but we are also slated to record a new compact disk upon our return to Cornell. At the same time, the senior chimesmasters are quickly approaching our last Spring Break, our last Slope Day and, of course, graduation. Note that in the coming semester, we are graduating five chimesmasters, so a solid turnout for this year's competition is crucial. As such, we have accommodated over 20 total tour groups, weddings, and



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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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specialty concert requests in the past semester, hoping to get as much exposure as possible.


To review the past few months, over the summer, former Head Chimesmaster Scott Silverstein '08 and current chimesmaster and chimes librarian Sam Birmaher '10 attended this year's GCNA conference in Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania; see their full article in this newsletter. Back in Ithaca, Gretchen Ryan '97 took care of the chimes as our summer chimesmaster. She coordinated two dozen weddings, several specialty concerts, and numerous tours. For one such tour, Gretchen played hostess to the Ithaca-Qatar ambassadors, even arranging and playing Lebanese song "Hela Ya Wase" on the chimes at their request. Gretchen and several other chimesmasters also played extended concerts for commencement and reunion weekends.

During the semester, the chimesmasters have been occupied with classes and organizations, applications for jobs and graduate school, and, inevitably, the H1N1 virus. At Cornell, we've kept the tower stocked with Clorox wipes and hand sanitizer for the office, practice stand, and playing stand. (And not to make this sound like a public service announcement, but regular hand-washing with soap and warm water is always strongly encouraged.) This Halloween, we also decided to forego the cauldron of apple cider, hoping to prevent the possibility of germ transmission.

When I returned to Ithaca in August, it was a whirlwind of head chimesmaster duties. One of the highlights of the past

semester was our Master Class with Geert D'Hollander. In our Master Class with Geert two years ago we worked primarily on phrasing and striking technique. This time, we focused on dynamically balancing the two parts of our duets (see Jennifer Lory-Moran's full article on the class).

Reminiscing about the competition three years ago, I knew from the moment I first laid eyes on McGraw Tower as a compet that we would have an interesting relationship. I recall most vividly the endless hours spent in the practice room. I'm pounding away at the practice clavier, either between classes or at some odd hour of the night, memorizing "the Rag" or figuring out why my right foot always plays the melody in the "Evening Song". I still have nightmares of the metronome ticking away and the graffiti on the practice room walls mocking me with their "Perfect Rag" tallies. Okay, not really, but while I've supposedly come a long way from those Practice Room Blues, becoming head chimesmaster has left several things unchanged. First, morning concerts are still not my "thing." I'm still in the tower at odd hours of morning and night, but in the office now more than the practice room. But, most of all, I'm still in love with the instrument.

As we don our clock tower and bell costumes to hand out flyers on Ho Plaza to advertise for the Cornell Chimes Competition, we would like to conclude by thanking each of you for your continuous support that allows us to maintain our cherished chimes tradition. 

**The Cornell Chimesmasters would like to thank our generous alumni and friends for supporting the program in the past year (fiscal year July 2008-June 2009).**

Elizabeth F. Allen '45  
Michael Berkwitz '86  
Kathryn Kraus Bolks '91  
Sean Bolks '90  
Nancy F. Bond  
Robert D. Bond  
Nancy Grambow Brown '85, '94  
Timothy B. Brown '84, '92  
Lauren F. Casey '02  
Joseph M. Conte '82  
Crystal Cun '97  
Jane S. Davis '43  
Marcy Dubroff '84  
Alan R. Erickson '03  
Robert L. Feldman '66, '75  
Susan Goodman Feldman '67  
David R. Fister '75  
Deborah Lyon Fister '74  
Elizabeth M. Francis '47  
Barbara J. Gottling '54  
Barbara Allen Grambow '56  
Richard C. Grambow '55, '57  
Neal D. Haber '75

Suzanne Heller Haber '75  
Constance C. Haggard '58  
Richard A. Haggard '58, '65  
Faith G. Hall '46  
Harold B. Hall '49  
Frederick E. Heinzelman Jr. '54  
John A. Hupcey '74  
Grace V. Jean '00  
W. Richard Johnson '80  
Carol Jordan '62  
David Jordan '62  
Joan N. Keegan '50  
Richard J. Keegan '49  
Courtney M. Kimball '01  
Clara Ann N. Lloyd '49  
John W. Lloyd '49  
Catherine Jordan Longley-Cook '03, '05  
Giles S. Longley-Cook '04  
Michael B. Maltenfort '91  
Allegra M. Marcell '99  
Lane I. McClelland '70  
Anne Gordon McLaughlin  
Ed McLaughlin

Carolyn Chauncey Neuman '64  
John L. Neuman '62  
Lisa M. Olafson '95  
Jane Park '97  
Deborah Passmore  
Steven Passmore  
Mary Baumann Pesaresi '75  
Joseph P. Pesaresi '75  
Martha D. Rose '75  
Franklin T. Russell '58  
Peter Ryde  
Steven J. Santurri '87  
Harold S. Simon '70  
David Lyons Stanford '05  
Sarah J. Stanford '05  
Denise S. Tennen '81  
Leaf Turner '63  
Edward J. Trethaway '49  
Patricia Trethaway  
George A. Ubogy '58  
Jo Ubogy  
Christine P. Wang '88  
David S. Yeh



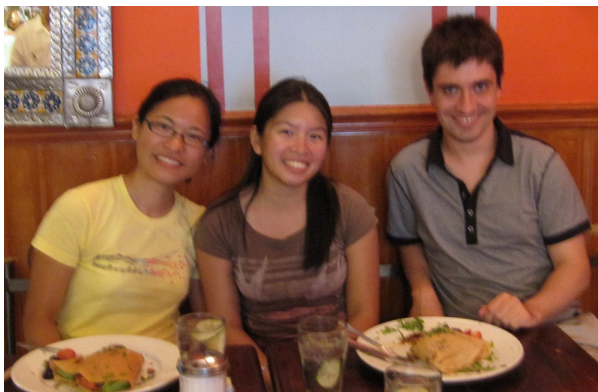
## Alumni Notes

Welcome to the New Year's edition of the Alumni Notes. We heard from some of you over the past couple of months, and had many chimesmasters visit campus, particularly when the **Chimes Advisory Council** met in November. Two dozen chimes alumni were in attendance for the annual meeting, hailing from the classes of 1949 through 2008! However, we hope to catch up with even more of you at the July Chimesmasters' Reunion this summer!

In addition to the Chimes Advisor Council, some of the many alumni that have returned to campus recently (and played the bells when they did) included **Erwin Chan '00, Taras Czebiniak '06, Bob Feldman '66, '75, and Cathy (Jordan) Longley-Cook '03, 05.** Remember, once a chimesmaster, always a chimesmaster, so please drop an email to [chimes@cornell.edu](mailto:chimes@cornell.edu) if you're planning a visit to Ithaca.

Over alumni reunion weekend in June, hundreds of visitors climbed McGraw Tower to enjoy the chimes concerts. This included **Barbara Gottling '55** (wife of the late **Phil Gottling '52**) and two members of the class of 1959 who climbed the tower's 161-steps for the first time!

**Crystal Cun, '07** wrote, "Sorry I haven't been in touch lately... I can't believe it's been over a year since I've made it



Alumni chimesmasters Crystal Cun '07, Lisa Ngai '05, and Alex Thimons '07 recently caught up in Chicago.

to Ithaca. We'll have to remedy this at some point next year. I did manage to catch up with LRN (**Lisa Ngai '05**) and AMT (**Alex Thimons '07**) over dinner a couple months ago when Lisa was in Chicago to run a half-marathon."

We would like to extend congratulations and best wishes to **Karen (Kamprath) Sheh '05** and her husband Alan who welcomed their first child, son Nicholas on October 29! Perhaps he'll be a Cornell Chimesmaster some day?

Good news also hails from **John Hoare '56, '57** and his wife MaryJane. They wrote, "Alyssa Cowles, granddaughter of John Hoare has received her acceptance to attend Cornell in the fall. She will become a 4th generation Cornellian. Alyssa is no stranger to the chimes having climbed the steps many times with her grandfather." Alyssa hails from Storrs, Connecticut which is the hometown of alumni chimesmaster (and former Cowles babysitter) **Cathy Longley-Cook!**

We also received this note from perennial Cornell Chimes ambassador **Bob Feldman.** "Yesterday (December 6), **Kathryn Barger GR '08, Scott Silverstein '08, Rich Johnson '80, Cathy Longley-Cook,** and I got together at the 11-bell chime I play in West Newton, Massachusetts... We played a variety of tunes, including some Cornell Chimes music that has been rearranged to fit on 11 bells - even the 'Shepherd's Hey' duet. Afterwards, we had lunch at a nearby restaurant.

"I guess this means we now have a *de facto* chimes support group in Boston! We resolved to arrange for another chimes fix soon at another tower in the Boston area. If there are any other chimesmasters in the Boston area who want to join us in the future, please let me know at [Robert.Feldman@hotmail.com](mailto:Robert.Feldman@hotmail.com)."



Cathy (Jordan) Longley-Cook tries out the 11-bell chime in Newton as Rich Johnson looks on. Photo by Bob Feldman '66, '75.

And this just in from **George Ubogy '58,** who is also busy with bell-related activity. "The Cornell Glee Club will be performing at the First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich (Connecticut). As luck would have it, the church has recently installed a chime, generally played with electronic recordings but it can also be played with a keyboard. I've asked for permission to give the Glee Club a surprise chime welcome and am optimistic that I will get it. That would be a thrill - for me, at least."

We hope it works out George. Perhaps you can parlay this into a regular chime playing gig, just as Bob Feldman has done with the 11-bell chime near his home!



## A History of Required Competition Pieces

Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, '97

As we enter a new competition season, the chimesmasters will again need to decide on the required pieces each compet must play as part of the final judged concerts. Each year we select two required pieces for the judging. (In recent years, compets have also been required to play the "Alma Mater" once during the judged concerts as well). Often we aim to have one piece which is more technical and one which is more expressive. While we don't select the same pieces two years in a row if any compets in the final round tried out the year before, not much attention has been paid to which pieces have been chosen repeatedly over the long term. Last spring, a survey of alumni chimesmasters on the *chimes-alum-l* listserv generated the following list of required pieces. Do you see any trends? This list is the result of collective memory, and is not certified to be 100% accurate... corrections are welcome!

2009- Agitato Expressivo, Rondoletto  
2008- Lament, Prelude from English Suite #3 in D minor  
2007- I Love My Love, Russian Sailor's Dance  
2006- Agitato Expressivo, Danse Infernale  
2005- Dolce, Le Secret  
2004- Lament, Rondeau  
2003- Lament, Russian Sailor's Dance  
2002- Lament, Firebird Finale  
2001- Komm Susser Todd, Firebird Finale  
2000- Lament, Russian Sailors' Dance  
1999- no competition  
1998- Lament, Brightly Dawns Our Wedding Day  
1997- Estudio #1, Russian Sailor's Dance  
1996- Lament, Brightly Dawns Our Wedding Day  
1995- Lament, Chaconne  
1994- Lament, Gavotte  
1993- Agitato Expressivo, Chaconne  
1992- Lament, Minuet from 1st Partita  
1991- Quest, Windmills of Your Mind?? (or was it Chaconne??)  
1988-1990 - Unknown...  
1987- Quest, Bach Partita  
1986- Chaconne  
1978- March of the Men of Harlech, Lament? Chaconne?  
Estudio #5?  
1971- Hydrydol and ?  
1969- Gypsy Rondo  
1967 - Gavotte  
1964 - Brightly Dawns our Wedding Day  
1961- The Madrigal (Lee)  
1955, 1956, 1957 - Brightly Dawns our Wedding Day,  
Jennie McGraw Rag, The Sun Whose Rays, an original  
arrangement 

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. List volume is manageable and shouldn't overwhelm your inbox.

If you are interested in subscribing, **your email address has changed (note mail forwarding on your email account can disrupt your ability to respond)**, or you have additional questions about this list, please email *chimes@cornell.edu*.



Lily Xie '10 and Ryan Fan '10 perform a duet for Geert D'Hollander during the October master class. Photo by Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, 97.

## **Student Spotlight on Lisa Passmore '10** **Interviewed by Marisa LaFalce '96**

*On a cold December morning, I had the pleasure of sitting down with senior chimesmaster Lisa Passmore, over a cup of hot cocoa. She had just finished her final exams two days before.*

*Hi Lisa, You've just finished your fall semester, how did your finals go?*

Well, I had a couple of crazy nights there, but I got everything done so it wasn't too bad.

*What's is your major?*

I'm studying Human Biology, Health, and Society. It's through the College of Human Ecology.

*Now that you are a senior, do you still have a lot of heavy-duty science classes to take or are you more in senior mode where you can take a lot of electives?*

(She laughs). I'm more in senior mode, but it's interesting. I'm taking a lot of policy classes. This past semester one was cross-listed through AEM (Applied Economics and Management) and one was cross-listed through PAM (Policy Analysis and Management) so there were different types of students in the classes. It was sort of rigorous because I had to figure out how to operate in those classes. For example, the AEM students all had a very strong Economics background.

*So you're going into your final semester! What are you going to take?*

Gosh, I always say at the beginning of the semester I'm going to take it easy, but then I see all of the options and it always gets a little crazy. This semester I'm signed up for (so far) Mammalian Physiology, the U.S. Health Care System, a seminar for my Global Health Minor...

*Isn't Kathy Houng (a fellow chimesmaster) in that minor too?*

Yes! I was reading your interview with her (*Cornell Chimes Newsletter*, Spring 2009) and our academic histories are quite similar. I'm also planning to take a Spanish Literature (modern) class.

*Do you speak fluent Spanish?*

No, not fluent, but that's a life goal I'm working towards.

*So you're not signed up for wines or cooking (two popular senior classes)?*

Yes! I am planning to take the Hotel School wines course if I can go – it coincides with a weekly work meeting. I've actually been wanting to take the wines course in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (more about the viticulture) but I haven't been able to fit it in my schedule, so I am deferring to the Hotel School version.

*Sounds like a pretty rigorous schedule for a second-semester senior.*

Yes it is, but it is all stuff I'm interested in. It is not as much hardcore science, but upper-level interests.

*What are you thinking about for the future, any plans?*

I would like to go to medical school... in a year or two. Eventually the goal is medical school and then a Master's in Public Health so balancing policy and medicine.

*So are you doing the application process now or waiting?*

I have a brief pause now and then it is boom-boom-boom, first the MCAT in January, then applications and letters of intent in the spring so that I can interview next fall (for fall 2011 enrollment).

*That's a lot!*

Yes!

*So have you studied a lot for the MCAT, or is that your winter break project?*

I've been slowly reviewing things as I can during breaks, etcetera but January is my time to focus and wrap it all up.

*So if you're taking the MCAT in January, does that mean you go to a place/time to take the MCAT or has it moved online like many of the other graduate entrance exams?*

Yes, it is still a specific date and time. It is an all day exam that I'll take down in Binghamton.

*So do you have any other (more fun) break plans?*

I'm trying to plan a trip to Texas – I lived there when I was in high school, so I want to plan a trip back to see my friends in Austin (and the area between Houston and Austin) while they are all still home and haven't gone off to graduate school and to get real jobs.

*So now you live in Michigan, what part of the state?*

My family lives in Midland, it's in the middle of the tri-city area (*she makes a map with her hand*).

*If you think of Texas as where you spent high school, when did your family move to Michigan?*

They moved in October 2006 right after I started at Cornell.

*So going back to Michigan is more about going back to family than friends? [I ask because that sense of "going home for break" can mean different things to students].*

Yes. The hardest question people ask me is "where are you from?" because it's a tricky question. Where I was born and where my family is now and where I relate to are all different, so I can't just answer – I usually give people the whole big story.

*Well then it sounds like a trip to Texas will be nice, particularly since this morning it is in the single digits! Okay, back to*

*the MCATs, you said you're taking them in January, but also coming back the weekend before classes start to record the new chimes compact disk so hopefully there's no conflict?*

Yes hopefully! Unless we have really bad weather and the CD recording gets postponed by a weekend, I am crossing my fingers it all works out.

*Tell me about the CD, what are you hoping to record?*

I am recording "Ballet from the Petite Suite" by C. Debussy as a duet with Sam (Birmaher '10), "Agitato Expressivo" by R. H. Lee '41, and "Sakura" a Japanese piece, the composer is unknown.

*Were those all pieces you specifically requested?*

Yes they were.

*Are those your favorite chimes pieces or pieces that you liked and thought were appropriate to the CD?*

The ballet and "Sakura" I have always liked. "Agitato Expressivo" was newer to me, I just learned it a couple of months ago, but it seemed appropriate to the CD and filled a genre we hadn't filled yet in compiling the set list.

*So do you have any other favorite chimes pieces?*

She laughs! Let's see... yes, and if you look at what I've played it kind of gives away what my favorites are. I like "March Slave" because it is a good showy piece that is good for bad days. I like the cornier show tunes like the "Fiddler on the Roof medley", and some of those similar songs.

*Do you ever play anything from the Music Man?*

Yes! Those were some of the pieces that I learned the chimes on like "76 Trombones."

*How about "Til There was You"? I ask because it is one of my favorite chimes pieces.*

Yes!

*Have you written any arrangements yet?*

(Lisa laughs again). How do I describe this? I've always wanted to be an arranger but don't have the music composition background. I tried to do "Santa Baby" for a friend and the "Mexican National Anthem", which was certainly more straightforward.

*I think chimesmasters always struggle with arrangements - they always have great ideas and sometimes can't find the time, or sometimes just aren't able to execute.*

I'm the second one (in my head) I have a few I'd like to do but it is really difficult to get them out.

*So what was your story - how did you find the chimes?*

I followed a friend to an information session, and I don't know, I wasn't instantly in love with them. It was a slow relationship that we built up. I liked the quirkiness of the chimesmasters

at the meeting, and I really liked Jen, she was very "Jen about everything."

I actually didn't make it my first year, but I came back. It was unusual for me to come back, but there was something about the bells, and I made it, and I enjoy it.... It is weird but before I started chimes I had a fear of heights and live performances. So it doesn't seem like the thing I would do, but here I am! I didn't have a music thing going in my life and it kind of filled in.

*That's very interesting... especially your fears.*

Yes I HATED performing in front of people, I had such an anxiety. The heights fear hasn't gone away but the performance fears are better.

*So I gather you don't spend much time on the belfry?*

No! If I can help it! When I do my "inspection" of the top before I close up after a concert I just do a quick jog-look to get done as quickly as possible.

*All of the chimesmasters are incredible musicians. What is your musical background?*

When people ask me what I play I say piano, but that's a long story. I played clarinet in band, one year of viola in high school orchestra, and I dabbled with guitar and mandolin. I picked up a trombone once and tinkered with it... but piano is the one that I'm best at and do regularly.

*Do you play at all at Cornell?*

Not anything official. Just at the dorm, sometimes.

*I really enjoyed having the chimesmasters playing our piano at the holiday gathering at our house. It was impressive to see anyone sit down, open up to a new page of music and just begin playing.*

Yes, I enjoyed that too - we've got an impressive group of sight-readers.

*You mentioned earlier that you'd like to take wines if it doesn't conflict with work, what work do you do?*

I'm an RA (Resident Advisor) in Ecology House.

*How long have you been at Eco-House?*

This is my third semester there as an RA. Sophomore year I lived in, and last year and this year I'm an RA.

*Do you have a lot of bizarre calls that come in at odd hours?*

We don't get a lot of calls. We don't have as many "incidents" as some of the more traditional residence halls. But when things happen they are much stranger things! Like something with a pet or animal or something growing somewhere that shouldn't...

*Interesting. So between your rigorous academics, chimes and RA duties, what else do you do in your spare time - if you have time?*

*Lisa Passmore interview continued...*

I participate in a service fraternity – so I do some community service through that and hang out with the fraternity brothers. Alpha Phi Omega, it is a co-ed service fraternity.

*Interesting, so you refer to members all as brothers, but since it is coed I assume that means both sexes?*

Yes, all are referred to as brothers so I'm "brother Lisa."

*On a Friday night, when school is in session what are you doing?*

It depends, if it's a social Friday night then an a capella concert, improv show, or movie. If it's been a crazy week then I am quietly sitting home, knitting and watching reruns on the TV – maybe old *Adams Family* reruns.

*So you're the one who gets to define when it's a "social" Friday night?*  
Yes.

*Are you an active knitter?*

I'm a newbie knitter – I am a crocheter, which I find more logical and straightforward, but I've been moving into the knitting realm recently. Part of my role at Eco-House is the "eco crafters" and we had a subset that was a knitting group called Needles of Fury, but it didn't really take off – too many inexperienced knitters and not enough needles, but it had potential.

*(We digress into a knitting conversation and then circle back). I have one last question I always ask in these interviews, and I have totally forgotten to ask you thus far. How did a girl from Texas stumble on Cornell?*

I did a general search via *Collegeboard.com* with a bunch of criteria, and the search came back with Ithaca College listed as the top school to fit all of my criteria. It also said "if you like Ithaca College you may also like Cornell." So I looked at Cornell, and I always knew I wanted a life science type major – Human Physiology, etc. and as I explored Cornell they had so many Biology offerings, so that was the immediate draw. So that was how I found out about Cornell.

*That's actually quite interesting – a "web story." So did you ever apply to Ithaca College?*

No. Being from Texas my parents decided for me – if you're going so far away we don't want to go some place we don't know a lot about, and so since they weren't as familiar with Ithaca, and there were fewer life science options, they were more in favor of Cornell. Cornell was just a bit more of a known factor.

*That's very interesting, it makes you think about how students are finding out about schools in this day and age.*

Woo Hoo! I'm modern!

*Thank you Lisa, it has truly been a pleasure, enjoy your break!*



## **It's Coming! Cornell Chimesmasters' Reunion July 23-25, 2010**

**Mark your calendar!**

**Make your travel plans!**

**Get ready to enjoy the bells!**

Spend a glorious summer weekend in Ithaca playing the bells (*don't worry, there will be many opportunities to practice*), sharing chimes memories, reacquainting yourself with the changing campus, and catching up with friends (both old and new).

You will receive a registration packet with complete details in the mail by early-June. Reunion information will also be posted on the chimes website at [www.chimes.cornell.edu](http://www.chimes.cornell.edu).

For planning purposes, events will begin with a Friday evening welcome reception on July 23 and conclude with our formal banquet on Saturday night. However, there will be numerous opportunities to play the bells, reminisce, and catch up with friends through Sunday afternoon, July 25.

Blocks of rooms have been reserved at the Best Western University Inn and the Hampton Inn (each offering rates of \$149/night). Rooms have also been reserved in the campus residence halls (\$62.50/night for double occupancy with air conditioning or \$42 without air conditioning plus a one-time administrative fee). Additional lodging information including sign up, as well as a complete schedule of events, will be included in your reunion registration mailing.

This event happens just once every ten years, so make plans now to attend the third ever all chimesmaster reunion.

We look forward to seeing you in July!



## Cornell Chimesmasters Learn from Rekown Belgian Carillonneur

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

On Friday, October 2, the chimesmasters enjoyed the opportunity to have another master class with Geert D'Hollander, Belgian carillonneur, composer, and teacher. The class occurred on a Friday night, when we hoped most of the campus was taking a break from classes and studying. (Just in case, notices were posted on the doors of the tower and nearby libraries, to warn students of the hours of playing that evening.)

This year's master class had a focus on duets. Duet playing is often an impromptu activity amongst chimesmasters. Someone shows up at someone else's concert and says "want to play some duets?" "Sure" is the usual response, and the two people pull out duets they both know (hopefully) and play. Practicing duets together is often reserved for new pieces or new chimesmasters.


Having duet playing as the focus for our master class helped spark wonderful conversations about playing and musicality even before the master class had begun. Players were making conscious musical decisions together and really focusing on working together in their music making.

Geert asked chimesmasters to choose pieces where the two parts were distinct. After a pair played their duet all the way through, Geert would go through the piece with them and address various sections. The overall focus of the class was on musicality more than technique, though technique did play a significant part as well. Some techniques that work on carillon can be adapted to our instrument nicely, and it is always interesting to hear the perspective of someone who plays bells but doesn't usually play on a chimestand.

Mostly we concentrated on making musical choices in phrasing and dynamics, finding and bringing out the melody, and working together to make beautiful music.

Here are just a few of the "lessons learned" from October's class. As we continue to host master classes, we're trying to document these "lessons."

- Figure out where the melody is. (When in doubt, it's probably the part with more movement.)
- Mark music with who has the melody.
- You need somewhere to grow to. Start a piece at *f*, not *ff*.
- Give every note a purpose. Where is it going? Don't just play *f*. Play phrases that are waves.

- To improve phrasing, take breaths as if you were playing a wind instrument.
- If playing duets, you have to START TOGETHER or START OVER.
- Know both parts of a duet so you understand the score better.
- There are times it makes sense to have the melody down below i.e. "Alma Mater duets", but it is hard for the ear to hear the melody down there when there is something else going on above – keep the top part quiet when it is the accompaniment.
- Match your partner's intensity when trading the melody back and forth. Similarly, match their intensity when they have a crescendo or decrescendo leading into YOUR melody line.
- When arranging duets – write only the notes you cannot play if you were alone. Don't write two full scores and put them together! 



Cornell Chimes Advisor Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, '97 performs a duet with master class instructor Geert D'Hollander.

## GCNA 2009 at Longwood Gardens

Sam Birmaher '10 and Scott Silverstein '08

The 2009 GCNA Congress was held at Longwood Gardens, a botanical park in Kennett Square, PA, and two Cornell chimesmasters were able to attend. While all chimesmasters are allowed to attend a GCNA conference when it takes place in the Northeast, this year everyone except for Sam Birmaher '10 was either out of the country or otherwise unable to attend. Originally Sam had planned to share a room with Yale Guild of Carillonners member Jon Lehrer, who agreed to help with transportation, but Scott Silverstein '08 made a last minute decision to come along on his own dime. Two chimers and a carillonneur in a hotel room might sound like the set-up for a cheesy chimes joke, but we had a great time at the conference and experienced a lot in just four days.

Longwood Gardens has a 62-bell carillon in a turret-shaped tower (ironically called the Chimes Tower) overlooking a small pond. The instrument is pitched higher than many carillons, meaning that the bells are best heard from the grassy listening area by the pond. We spent many hours sitting or lying in the grass listening to carillon recitals that ranged from Bach to Sousa to contemporary pieces. The grounds themselves were expansive, including flower gardens, an Italian-style fountain garden, two lakes, winding paths lined with trees and plants from all over the world, a meadow, and an old-growth forest. The opening reception and closing banquet were held in a dramatic room of the huge conservatory, with a high cathedral ceiling and filled with exotic trees and hanging plants.


In addition to Longwood Gardens' own carillon, an Eijsbouts traveling carillon was brought to the Congress. For the first three days the instrument was available for conference attendees to play at their leisure. The instrument sits on a trailer and can be hooked up to a truck or lifted onto a barge and transported overseas. Both the bells and the playing stand are a bit smaller than usual, but that only made it easier for us chimers to try out the four octave instrument. Near the end of the conference we saw a performance of *Cast in Bronze*, a show where a masked carillonneur plays the instrument with a pre-recorded accompaniment.

We spent plenty of time at the Eijsbouts carillon and at the Chimes Tower playing some songs from our own archives, making sure to get Cornell representation by including R. H. Lee's '41 "Etude", Keith Jenkins's '93 "Snow", and (of course) the "Alma Mater duets" in our impromptu sessions. Sam also played some duets with Yale carillonners, while Scott dared to try out an arrangement he had written of "Malagueña" with the bass line in the pedals.

One day of the Congress was devoted entirely to a field trip stopping at four carillons in the Philadelphia area, which has the highest concentration of carillons in North America.

Two were in the Germantown neighborhood of the city, and the three carillonners who had been accepted into the Guild in 2008 played their recitals at these instruments. The third was St. Thomas' Church at Whitemarsh, and the fourth was the Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge. There were recitals at every stop, but usually not much spare time, so we didn't get the chance to play every instrument, although we did play an encore of the "Alma Mater duets" at Valley Forge.

There were also some non-bell-related activities as part of the conference. One night we got the chance to watch a silent film with live accompaniment on the enormous vintage theater organ in the conservatory. The film was, unsurprisingly, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and Steven Ball from the University of Michigan improvised the music. On the final night, there was an illuminated fountain show choreographed to music. Known as one of the trademarks of the Gardens, it was as colorful as it was an incredible feat of engineering.

The day after the Congress was pretty exciting, as well. We drove up to Princeton to visit our former co-chimesmaster, Si Yi Wang '08, who took some time away from her laboratory work to show us the carillon. After an hour of playing solos and duets (including yet another rendition of the "Alma Mater"), Sam just barely caught his train in time following a frenzied drive to Trenton, New Jersey, leaving Scott with a mere seven-hour-drive back home to Massachusetts. 



Scott Silverstein '08 (far) and Sam Birmaher '10 (near) try the carillon at Princeton University. Photo taken by SiYi Wang '08.

## Cornell Campanology

Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, 97, Chimes Advisor

In my pursuit of material relating to Cornell Campanology, I have found many interesting books in the Cornell libraries. The Music Library in Lincoln Hall has a large selection of books relating to bells, chimes, and carillons. I was intrigued to find there a 13-page booklet titled *The Bells of the University of Michigan* written in 1919. Little did I know what I would find inside... I shall present it here without commentary and welcome your responses!

Andrew Dickson White served as history professor at the University of Michigan from 1857 to 1867. In the spring of 1882, as president of Cornell University, White volunteered to be one of the donors of a peal of bells at the University of Michigan. White and two other gentlemen donated the bells to the University, and the Clinton H. Meneely Bell Company of Troy, NY cast the five bells for the peal (G, F, Eb, Bb, and Eb).

In 1918, the University of Michigan reference librarian contacted A.D. White for information about the Latin inscription on their largest bell. While White could not answer the question posed regarding the inscription, he did share the following in his reply.

“Our chime here was cast and in place in its tower before President Adams\* came to Cornell, but he always seemed greatly interested and I was not surprised when he proposed that a peal of four bells be placed in your original Library Tower. I think that this was due to an opinion of my own, for we were very intimate and I often said to him that whatever weight of bell metal might be placed in bells for a university, I would rather have it concentrated into a *peal of four than*, as was then the case at Cornell, into a *chime of nine bells*, my reason being that with a peal of four bells you can always have harmony, but that with a chime of any size you generally cannot have it, for the reason that chimers and people influencing them are always trying experiments with new tunes, and this we found no less true regarding our larger chime, placed in our tower since Dr. Adams left us.”

\* *Charles Kendall Adams was head of the University of Michigan history department when the peal was donated, and later became president of Cornell University.*

Source: *The Bells of the University of Michigan*. Byron A. Finney. Ann Arbor, 1919.

## Dates to Remember...

### January 25

Classes begin, regular concerts resume

### February 8-April 25

Annual chimesmaster competition

### May 8

Classes end, study period schedule begins

### May 29-30

Commencement weekend

### June 1

Summer schedule begins - concerts infrequent

### June 10-13

Cornell Alumni Reunion - many concerts to be performed

### July 23-25

Cornell Chimesmaster Reunion

### August 25

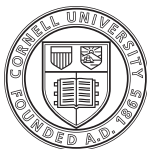
Classes begin, regular concerts resume



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