

## Chimesmaster Places in “Olympics of Carillon”— How the Chimes to Carillon Journey Begins

Marisa LaFalce '96

**K**ieran Cantilina '15 has had a remarkable year. In June of 2018, he and wife Ren Ortega '16 packed their bags and moved to Belgium where Kieran attended the renowned Mechelen Carillon School on a grant from the Belgian American Education Foundation. He intensively studied and practiced all facets of carillon history and musicology. His efforts were rewarded in June when he first passed Mechelen's rigorous exam and then returned to the United States to pass the Guild of Carillonneurs of North America (GCNA) exam at the 2019 Congress at Bok Tower. Last spring Kieran also placed in the Fabiola International Carillon Competition, a global event that takes place every five years with similar international reach as the Olympics has for athletes.

The chimesmaster community is proud to have one of their own achieve such high accolades, but Kieran's achievements cannot be highlighted without acknowledging the journeys of other chimesmasters who have mastered the musical art of both chimes and carillon. With his acceptance into the GCNA, Kieran joins two other Cornell Chimesmasters and fellow guild members—Judy Ogden '71, MPS '75, JD '77 and Daniel Zlatin MS '81.

Daniel's passion for bells began as an undergraduate at the University of Toronto. “One calm winter evening while the snow came gently down, someone was playing something on the carillon.... Listening to the sound of the bells spreading across campus, I was hooked!”



Kieran Cantilina takes his music on the road—performing on a moving carillon during a Belgian parade.



Going international—Jen Lory-Moran plays the carillon at Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekathedraal in Antwerp, Belgium.

Despite his interest, he did not begin playing bells until he arrived at Cornell as a graduate student. After graduating from Cornell, and spending two years bell-less, Daniel relocated to Ottawa and began his study at the Peace Tower Carillon under Gordon Slater. It took



Belgian carillon culture—crowds turn out to hear concerts, often watching the performance via video screen (sometimes with a beer in hand) because the carillon cabins are usually inaccessible to visitors.

### Connect to the Cornell Chimes All Year Long!

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# Chimesmaster's Corner

Hans Slechta '20, Head Chimesmaster



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Hans Slechta performs for a crowd of visitors.

The Cornell Chimes continued their sesquicentennial year with a busy spring semester. Spring 2019 featured a Lunar New Year concert on February 5, a couple weeks after classes began. We followed that with the annual Valentine's Day concert on February 14. Joey Brink, university carillonneur at the University of Chicago, led us in a master class about one week before our St. Patrick's Day concert. On April 12, the chimes again collaborated with Yamatai, the taiko drumming group on campus for

a spring concert. At semester's end, we said good-bye to seniors Sonya Chyu and Billie Sun (although Billie returned this year to pursue a master's degree). We also welcomed four new chimesmasters: Alex Koenigsberger '21, Linda Li '22, Kayla Shames '21, and Zhicheng Wang '21. This totals 13 active chimesmasters for the fall semester.

Over the summer, four or five chimesmasters were usually in Ithaca, which meant the campus enjoyed four or five concerts every week. They continued the Summer Sunday Sunset Concert Series with several special Sunday concerts, including a space and moon-themed concert in honor of the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. In addition, they cumulatively played nine specialty concerts during the summer months.

During the fall semester, we played an open house concert during orientation, as well as open house concerts for Homecoming and family weekend. Our Chimes Advisory Council weekend featured many alumni returning to Ithaca and playing hours of concerts, plus a special presentation from Kieran Cantilina '15 about his recent carillon studies in Belgium. Despite rainy and miserable weather, the annual Halloween concert was still very full and crowded. Each year we host a prop competition to help move proposed pieces that have accumulated over the year move out of the proposed file. November's competition was a huge success, with 41 new songs added to the library. Also in November, the chimesmasters took a road trip to New York City, visiting four

carillons in the city and surrounding parts of New Jersey.

With so many current chimesmasters this semester, we scheduled regular duet concerts. Each new chimesmaster shared one of their three weekly concerts with another chimesmaster. After the duet concert, the chimesmasters offer feedback to each other. This helps more experienced chimesmasters improve their musicianship and provides feedback to newer chimesmasters. With a similar goal in mind, we held group feedback concerts every couple of weeks, and they have been well-received. Each concert has a specific focus such as arranging or performance; we will continue the feedback concerts this spring.

During the feedback concerts, I realized how glad I am to see the chimesmasters' enthusiasm for arranging music and their cumulative desire to improve as musicians and chimesmasters. I love playing group concerts, partly because of the community aspect of having multiple chimesmasters playing at the same time, but also because we share our knowledge and experience with each other. The upper-level chimesmasters might have settled into their favorite songs that they play again and again, but the newer chimesmasters are still discovering their favorite pieces, and with a vast music library, they are playing songs that the seniors may have never seen or heard. In our feedback concerts, we are introducing each other to new music, and I think we are getting a better sense of what kind of music each of us enjoys performing. We share our arrangements and offer input on ways to simplify tricky parts that the arranger has already committed to muscle memory. I enjoy listening to the new chimesmasters play a song that they recently arranged, and I love seeing the delight in their eyes as they hear their arrangement performed out loud for the first time. I remember when I played my first arrangement, and I am so delighted to see and share in that moment with new chimesmasters. It is an exhilarating feeling for me, and I hope that they always remember it, too.

*Hans Slechta is a senior studying linguistics in the College of Arts and Sciences. He plans to attend graduate school next fall to study historical and Proto-Indo-European linguistics.*



*An annual newsletter of the Cornell Chimes*

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I really like Erwin's (Chan '00) arrangements, especially "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You." I also like Ivana Thng's '12 arrangement "Inochi No Namae" from *Spirited Away*.

Emily performs for her family in a decorated McGraw Tower (just after a Halloween concert).

## Spotlight on Emily Liu '20

Marisa LaFalce '96

I met Emily Liu, a senior in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs), on a blustery winter day in a crowded library café during the final exam period.

*Hi, Emily, how is it going? When is your last exam?*

I don't finish until Friday afternoon, so almost the end.

*I bet you are looking ahead to winter break. What are your plans?*

Not too much. Hopefully I will play the carillon in Plainfield (New Jersey) that we visited on the chimesmaster road trip. The music director there gave us a standing invitation to come and play.

*That sounds great. Tell me about your academics. What are you studying?*

I am studying environmental engineering in CALs.

*The time goes quickly...how are you feeling about being a senior?*

Well, I feel like I am postponing things by doing a master of engineering (M.Eng.) degree for an extra semester here. So I'm not

quite joining the real world just yet. I can worry about job searching and all of that next semester.

*Tell me about this semester. As a senior are you taking a lot of electives?*

My course load this semester is pretty typical—a lot of engineering classes. I will be moving toward more electives and random subjects next semester, but I will also have to begin my M.Eng. courses. Some of the chimesmasters are thinking about taking an organ class next semester so there's that.

*Has it been a good semester?*

It's been okay, but I am certainly ready to be out of school and to see my cat!

*Where is home?*

I am from Rockland County, New York. So not too far away.

*Tell me about your M.Eng. degree.*

I will be officially starting my master of engineering next semester. But I still have one course remaining for my undergraduate degree (to graduate in May). I'll take that last class, and the rest of my classes will be for my M.Eng. plus some electives.

*That's pretty impressive that you will graduate with your bachelor's in May and your master's*

*in December. A lot of students take a full year to do their M.Eng.*

I feel like it's designed to do the early admit track if you come to Cornell with a lot of advanced placement (AP) classes, which I did. I do have some friends doing the same early admit process as me.

*I am still giving you credit for completing two degrees just a semester apart! Are you looking forward to a relaxing break?*

Yes, pretty much. In theory I am supposed to begin my design project for the M.Eng. degree, but that is based on a lot of different factors, so I am not real sure that will get done.

*Tell me about your summers. You were in Ithaca most of last summer?*

I was working for a professor as a greenhouse assistant. Most of the time I was taking care of fish, but I also played a lot of chimes. And I went to the Guild of Carillonneurs Congress (GCNA) in June, that was a lot of fun.

*Did you enjoy the greenhouse work? Is that something you would like to pursue?*

It was definitely a no. I am not particularly interested in greenhouses or agriculture and now I know that! This coming summer I am hoping to find an internship (away from

Ithaca) if I can. If not, I will likely stay in Ithaca and work again.

*Well if you're back in Ithaca, that will be good for the Cornell Chimes program. Good luck with your internship search. Tell me about GCNA.*

It was really fun. It was nice to have a bonding experience with Linda (Li, who became a chimesmaster this past spring). The event also introduced me to the whole carillon world. I really didn't know all of that existed before GCNA. It also made me certain that I never want to live in Florida—it's too humid and there are too many mosquitos in June. Although Bok Tower and the gardens were beautiful.

*Thinking back to high school, what made you choose Cornell?*

In all honesty I didn't have a dream school. I knew I wanted to go to a great engineering school that wasn't too far from home—or too close to home. Cornell was one of those places that fit all of my requirements. Plus being a CALS student and paying in-state tuition is really nice. So Cornell was the best fit.

*Did you have any ties to Cornell before you became a student here?*

Yes. My older brother went here. Although he never came to a single chimes concert until this fall! And he graduated in 2015.

*When did you first hear the bells or become aware of the chimes?*

I became aware of them the summer before I entered Cornell. I was searching for different ways to participate in music as a student and along the way I discovered the chimes. I thought, "oh this is cool," but then I put it on the back burner.

When I got a quarter card in my student mailbox in January, I thought "that's cool." I had never been to a concert before so I came to the tower for the competition information session and everything snowballed from there.

*And you tried out your first year here at Cornell?*

Yes.

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

I've written a few. The last time I checked, there were three pieces in the database that made it in almost entirely from the annual "prop competition" voting.

*What kinds of pieces? Is the music you arranged from any specific genre?*

No. It's a random assortment. Some are video game theme songs. Or arrangements for random chimes events that needed music. I arranged something for last year's Chinese New Year Celebration. I also arranged a piece for a bagpipe event that never quite happened.

*I think I also saw your name next to a Grateful Dead arrangement request for this spring?*

Oh yeah, that, too. I don't remember which song it is off the top of my head but I listened to it on YouTube and thought "this sounds nice! I will try arranging it." [Editor's note: we checked and it is "Box of Rain."]

*What kind of music do you like to play on the bells? Any specific genres or are your concert selections just as diverse?*

The pieces I like to play are kind of random, but there are some specific arrangers that I really like to play. I really like Erwin's (Chan 'oo) arrangements, especially "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You." I also like Ivana Thng's '12 arrangement "Inochi No Namae" from *Spirited Away*.

*Our chimesmasters are very musical. You must be to read music well enough for the competition. So what about you? Do you play any other instruments?*

I play piano, flute, and piccolo. But to be honest, I haven't played much of any of those instruments while at Cornell. They are more of a hobby at this point.

*Did you ever participate in marching band? I thought maybe you had.*

No, but I did play in the Cornell Big Red Pep Band for a bit. Eventually scheduling conflicts got to be too much. I am no longer in the pep band, but it was fun.

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

I like to play video games. I am also very involved in APO and I like to go to various fellowship events—their term for generally being social and hanging out.

*Can you describe what APO is for our readers?*

Yes, it stands for Alpha Phi Omega; it is a co-ed service fraternity. Cornell's chapter of APO is the third largest in the United States, so we are a very big group.

*What types of service do you perform?*

Well I like to do events that I would like to attend. For example, I sorted books for the Friends of the Library book sale, which is a huge used-book sale twice a year in Ithaca that supports the library system. I like to also help for campus events such as setting up and serving food for special events. I served food for the CTAS (Chinese Taiwanese American Society student organization) Night Market. It's a cultural festival with food and performances. This year I was a food server and helped with clean up. I also enjoy ushering for concerts in Bailey Hall.

*It sounds like APO gets you involved in a lot of different types of events.*

Yes. They post a lot of different kinds of events on the APO event calendar. I like this

because I can do a lot of different kinds of service.

*Have you been involved in APO all four years at Cornell?*

No. I joined the spring of my sophomore year.

*And how would you spend a typical Friday night?*

Well Friday night I play Dungeons and Dragons typically! On a usual weekend I might go to one of several different APO events because there are usually a few every weekend.

I try to get some homework done on the weekends, too, but I also participate in various APO events.

*How would you define your community at Cornell?*

I would define it through APO and chimes. Those are the two organizations that I am heavily involved in. All of my friends are involved in one of those two organizations so those pretty much are my community.

*That's great. It doesn't matter so much what our community looks like as long as we find one where we belong.*

*You are now a senior, is there anything that you would tell your first-year self if you could?*

My first-year self probably should have listened to her older brother and joined APO as a freshman! Maybe I would join more clubs rather than just sign up for their email lists but not ever participate in their events and meetings. I would be better about actually showing up at stuff.

*It sounds like you do a lot of that now with APO.*

Yes, it's true. There are a few clubs I found that I was interested in over the years but I never got fully involved. So I still get emails from their lists but I've never actually participated. For example, the mushroom club always sounded pretty cool. I like that kind of niche stuff.

*Is there anything else you would like to share, Emily?*

No, I'm not quite sure. I think that's it.

*Thank you, Emily, for your time. Have a safe and relaxing break!*

# Alumni Notes

Seattle, anyone? This summer, a West Coast chimes gathering took place when **Erica Ho '13** visited **Bryan Chong '13**, **M Eng '14**, while he was working for Amazon this past summer. During Erica's visit they enjoyed dinner with **Victoria Tan '21**, who was interning in Seattle for the summer together with locals **Hyangmi Kwak '14** and **Weijia Chen '14**!

**David Yeh** and Rachel Weitzman-Yeh report "the daily carillon concert at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) brings back many fond memories of all the Cornell Chimesmasters we met and heard play over our 30 or so years at Cornell. It was such an honor to have been a part of the chimes, Cornell's longest musical tradition, and to see it thrive.

"In 2008, Rachel and I were asked by former President Frank Rhodes to help in an ambitious and amazing start-up—an international graduate university in Saudi Arabia, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST). I was assistant provost and executive director of the Office of the President, then established the International Program Office, which developed the Visiting Student Research Program (VSRP). KAUST is now among the top 20 graduate research universities in the world with faculty, students, and staff from more than 120 nationalities. We now live in Playa Vista, California—in L.A. Cornell and the chimesmasters are so often in our thoughts, we would love to hear from you (dsy1@cornell.edu), and even see you if southern California is your home or you are just visiting the area."

**Robert Feldman '66, PhD '75** and **Cathy (Jordan) Longley-Cook '03, MAT '05** continue to provide music for the people of Newton, Massachusetts, with their summer evening chime concerts at the 11-bell chime in West Newton. About 35 guests attended each concert, some of whom were Cornell alumni.

**John Hoare '56, MBA '57** and Mary Jane Hoare recently enjoyed holidays with family. The big news is the addition of a future chimesmaster! "Our grandson and his wife, who met in the WVU 'Pride of West Virginia' marching band, are expecting in June. The family is all excited over the news."

Many chimesmasters returned to campus this past year, including **Grace Jean '00**, **Gloria Lee '99**, **Mike Mage '55**, and **Gardiner Powell '54**. A special thanks goes out to **Jen Turney MS '89** who joined us in the tower for Cornell Reunion in June to help perform.

We close on a sad note, remembering **Francis Ogilvie '50**, who passed away this past year. To all our alumni and friends—please stay in touch!



PHOTO BY ROBERT FELDMAN

Cathy (Jordan) Longley-Cook performs a summer concert on the Newton, Massachusetts bells.



PHOTO BY CATHY LONGLEY-COOK

Robert Feldman regularly plays the bells at the 11-bell chime in Newton, Massachusetts.



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

West Coast chimesmaster reunion! From left to right: Hyangmi Kwak, Weijia Chen, Victoria Tan, Erica Ho, and Bryan Chong.



PHOTO BY ROBERT FELDMAN

Visitors enjoy a summertime concert on the lawn of the First Unitarian Universalist Society church in Newton, Massachusetts.

**T**hank you to our generous alumni and friends for their gifts to the Cornell Chimes last year (fiscal year July 2018 through June 2019). Your gift today will make an immediate and lasting impact on the chimes program.

Hye Weon An  
Ki Ho An  
Serim An '17  
Alison Louie Anker '01  
Christopher J. Anker '01  
Thomas L. Bantle '74  
Samuel Birmaher '10  
Eileen Blecher  
Kathryn Kraus Bolks '91  
Sean M. Bolks '90  
Kristin Overgaard Bond '85  
Robert D. Bond  
Ian B. Brodrick '81, MD '85  
Laurie P. Brodrick  
Nancy G. Brown '85  
Timothy B. Brown '84, MBA '92  
Kevin M. Casey  
Lauren F. Casey '02  
Richard Chang PhD '91  
Bryan Chong '13, M Eng '14  
Fredric L. Cohen '81  
Joseph M. Conte '82  
Crystal Cun '07  
Mary Lou J. Currivan '68  
Taras M. Czebiniak '06  
Walter Czebiniak  
Jill Klion Dodsworth '74  
Holly E. Dowell  
Marcy Dubroff '84  
Susan J. Egloff '68, JD '80  
Robert L. Feldman '66, '75  
Susan E. Feldman '67  
Maura M. Flatley MS '81  
Jeff Giroux  
Lisa Giroux  
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Richard C. Grambow '55, DVM '57  
Neal D. Haber '75  
Suzanne Heller Haber '75  
Constance C. Haggard '58

Richard A. Haggard '58, PhD '65  
Faith G. Hall '46  
Katie M. Hamren '11  
Nicole Manning Hart '03  
Phillip D. Hart '03  
Cara E. Harth '94  
Erica Ho '13  
John H. Hoare '56, MBA '57  
Mary Jane Hoare  
John A. Hupcey '74  
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James W. Jacobs  
Sarah E. Jacobs  
Grace V. Jean '00  
Estella K. Johnson '55  
Raymond E. Johnson '54  
W. Richard Johnson '80  
Carol Jordan '62  
David Jordan '62  
Leslie A. Kase  
Peter A. Klein M Eng '92  
Esther E. Koblenz '72  
Marisa P. LaFalce '96  
Thomas P. LaFalce '94  
Laura LaFontaine '86  
William R. LaFontaine PhD '90  
Neil MacCormick '58  
Michael G. Mage '55  
Rose G. Mage '56  
Thomas J. Marchitto '70  
Lane I. McClelland '70, MBA '73, JD '74  
Conor McCrea '99  
Michelle McCrea '99  
Ildiko C. Mitchell '69  
Carolyn Chauncey Neuman '64  
John L. Neuman '62  
Andrew M. Novakovic  
Deborah L. Novakovic  
Joanna F. Novakovic '04  
Steven M. Novakovic '04

Judy S. Ogden '71, MPS '75, JD '77  
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Peter Ryde  
Steven J. Santurri '87  
Gioia A. Sawchuk '73  
John A. Sawchuk '71  
Regina S. Schafer  
Richard P. Schubert '86  
Susan Engleman Schubert '86  
Amy Hirshfeld Schultz '92  
William J. Sibal '64  
Scott A. Silverstein '08  
Harry Simon '70  
Andrew R. Strauss '18  
Lisa Rose Thompson MS '91, PhD '93  
Mike Thompson MS '82, PhD '84  
Gregory A. Tonarelli '14  
Jennifer S. Turney MS '89  
George A. Ubogy '58  
Jo Ubogy  
Ann Huckle Van Gorden '80  
Charles L. Van Gorden '80  
Christine P. Wang '88  
Elizabeth J. Wiggans '69  
George R. Wiggans '68  
Ralph Work '43  
Qianjing Xia '13  
Charlie Xu '16  
Youhan Yuan  
Grace Zheng '07  
Daniel Zlatin MS '81

# Cornell Chimesmaster Road Trip

Kevin Cook '21

In November, the chimesmasters embarked on a weekend road trip to the New York City metro area. With more than 15 bell instruments located in Manhattan alone, it was the perfect place for a bell adventure. We settled on four carillons that were able to host us over the two-day period: the 47-bell carillon at Grace Episcopal Church in Plainfield, New Jersey, the recently renovated 26-bell carillon at St. George's-by-the-River Episcopal Church in Rumson, New Jersey, the 26-bell carillon at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Midtown Manhattan, and the 74-bell carillon at the Riverside Church on the Upper West Side.

After departing Ithaca early Saturday morning, we spent the day visiting the two New Jersey instruments. All of our hosts were friendly and welcoming—the parishioner who hosted us in Rumson seemed especially happy to hear the bells ring. After playing “Hedwig’s Theme” and “Greensleeves” she remarked, “anyone who complains about music this beautiful deserves to be thrown in the river!” Their carillon is not played as often as the others that we visited due to complaints from nearby residents. In Plainfield, after enjoying lunch at a coffee shop owned by the carillonneur at Grace Episcopal, we were delighted to play the carillon for nearly two hours, as well as other instruments owned by the church, including a beautiful organ and an antique harpsichord!

On Sunday, we travelled into Manhattan, where Erica Ho '13 and Taras Czebiniak '06 joined us for our visit to the New York City carillons. We spent the morning at St. Thomas and then took the subway uptown to Riverside, where we took an elevator up more than 20 stories to visit the largest carillon in the world by weight of bells. It was incredible to hear and see the enormous bourdon bell—nearly ten feet tall—juxtaposed with the smallest bell—almost six octaves higher. I have since been told by the carillonneur that he took a picture of four of the chimesmasters as we played the “Cornell Alma Mater” in four parallel octaves, which is now hanging on the wall in the carillonneur’s office at Riverside.



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

Chimesmasters take Manhattan—current Cornell Chimesmasters plus Erica Ho (center, black hat) and Taras Czebiniak (end at right).



PHOTO BY TARAS CZEBINIAK

The stunning cathedral tower at Riverside Church, New York

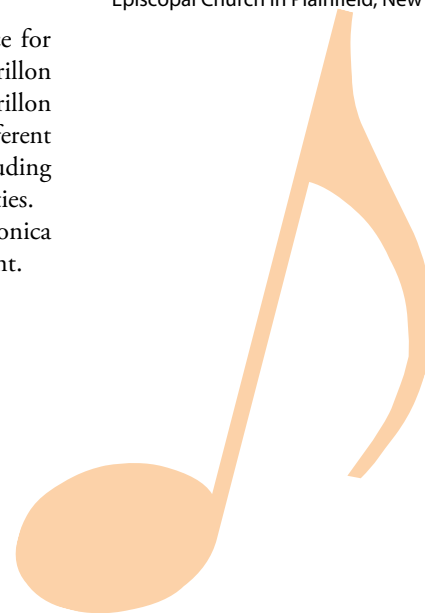


PHOTO BY KEVIN COOK

The belfry of the 47-bell carillon at the Grace Episcopal Church in Plainfield, New Jersey

The trip was a wonderful experience for everyone—many of us now have the carillon bug! Most of us had never played a carillon before, and it was amazing to see how different the instruments are from each other including our chime, and yet the striking similarities.

This trip was made possible by the Monica Novakovic Chimes Program Endowment.





PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

Chimesmasters reunite! Jen Lory-Moran and Kieran Cantilina (a newly minted GCNA member)



PHOTO BY LINDA LI

The Betty Jane Dimmitt Memorial Carillon rings outdoors in Clearwater, Florida.



PHOTO BY EMILY LIU

Linda Li shows her bell love!

# Chimesmasters Attend Memorable GCNA Congress at Bok Tower Gardens

Emily Liu '20

In June of 2019, I attended the 77th annual Guild of Carillonneurs of North America Congress as a first-time attendee. It was held at Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, Florida. Linda Li '22, Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, MAT '97, Kieran Cantilina '15, Karen (Ren) Ortega '16, and Judy Ogden '71, MPS '75, JD '77 were also in attendance. The gardens were gorgeous, although we were practically steaming in the hot and humid Florida summer! The 60-bell 205-foot Singing Tower carillon is stunning with its neo-Gothic and art deco design. Linda and I toured the Singing Tower, giving us a glimpse of the Anton Brees Carillon Library, the largest collection of carillon history and music in the world (learn more about the library in the *Winter 2018 News & Notes from the Cornell Chimesmasters*).

Listening to the Singing Tower Carillon was a meditative experience, especially with the gardens as a backdrop. Sitting on the benches hearing nothing but the wind in the trees and

wonderful music while surrounded by the beauty of the gardens was, for me, the highlight of the congress. Numerous recitals were held, among them ten exam recitals for those who wish to enter the guild. The final exam recital was played by Kieran Cantilina '15. We were proud to learn that Kieran passed and is now a guild member.

In addition to recitals, there were numerous presentations. I was most interested in the University of Michigan Open Access Carillon Scores, presented by Dr. Tiffany Ng. This is an online sheet music platform for carillon works by contemporary composers. Presentations on social media, fundraising, a new carillon composition, and a variety of other topics were also offered.

After the congress, two excursions were offered to other carillons: Century Tower at the University of Florida in Gainesville and the Betty Jane Dimmitt Memorial Carillon at Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Clearwater. Linda and I went to visit the 49-bell Betty Jane Dimmitt Memorial Carillon, where we had a blast playing both the organ and the carillon.

Other highlights include the first-timers' breakfast, where we befriended members of the Yale Guild of Carillonneurs, a memorable occasion where a representative from Chime Master company told me to call them if our Cornell Chimes wanted more bells, the banquet, and playing around on the practice stands with Linda.

I had a wonderful time at the congress and will most certainly attend another one. Thank you to those whose generosity made this incredible experience possible.



# Notes from the Chimes Advisor

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

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## Chimes Master Class with Joey Brink, March 2019

Every other year, the chimesmasters participate in a master class—our master classes have covered a variety of topics including performance, duets, arranging, and healthy movement. Last year's chimesmasters wanted a class that focused on arranging, so we invited Joey Brink, university carillonist at the University of Chicago, to Ithaca to lead the master class. Joey is a prolific arranger and award-winning composer for the carillon.

We began the master class upstairs, giving Joey a chance to see how the chimes are played and try them himself. Then we moved down to the office, where Joey reviewed some of the basics of arranging for bell instruments, including bell harmonics, the capabilities and physical limitations of the chimes, and guidelines for music selection. After our whole group discussion, Joey spent the rest of the afternoon in the practice room, working one-on-one with chimesmasters on their arrangements-in-progress. Chimesmasters came with a variety of pieces in a wide range of levels of completion. I personally came with a four-measure melody that has been in my head for ten years that I would love to turn into an original composition, if I could just get past that fourth measure! For that, we headed down to the first-floor piano, where Joey demonstrated how he takes ideas for compositions and experiments with them. Throughout the afternoon, chimesmasters were tweaking arrangements in the office, observing the sessions in progress in the practice room, and trying ideas out down on the piano and practice stand on the first floor.

At the end of the afternoon, we headed back to the playing stand to hear what our revised arrangements sounded like. We also pledged to get back together later in the year to check in on those arrangements and keep getting feedback on our work. I'm happy to report that this fall we had a number of well-attended feedback sessions.

Here were some of my take-aways from Joey's class:

- Arrange for the sound on the ground, not the sound in the playing cabin.
- Record yourself playing.
- "If you can whistle it" a piece is more likely to work on the bells. Movie themes and Disney work well.



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

Jen Lory-Moran together with master class guest Joey Brink, the University of Chicago carillonist

- Don't arrange pieces that are too reliant on rhythm/percussion. It's hard to recognize syncopation if you don't have it grounded to a downbeat, or "pulse."
- "A complex arrangement may be more impressive but not more effective."
- When choosing notes for chords, thirds are more important than fifths to give a sense of major/minor effect. In the lower bells, where minor third partials are stronger, consider inverting major thirds so it sounds clearer.
- Octaves are a lot of work to play but don't add much. The lower note is already making up about 80% of the sound.
- Low bells take longer to fade. Lots of notes down low will get muddy. Bring the whole line up an octave to make it clearer.

## GCNA Master Class with Geert D'hollander, June 2019

I attended a second master class this year when I went to the GCNA Congress at Bok Tower. On the first day of the Congress, host Geert D'hollander led two master classes on the carillon and I was pleased to get a spot in one of those classes. Some of the feedback he gave that day that transfers well to the chimes includes

- When playing an arrangement, listen to recordings of the original whenever possible.
- After playing a note with the foot, immediately move the foot to the next note where it will be needed—don't wait.
- It is hardest to bring out the melody when it is in the middle (with accompaniment both above and below).
- Don't just enjoy what you hear yourself playing—also think about what the audience is hearing downstairs.

# Chimes Advisory Council Updates

Erica Ho '13, Chimes Advisory Council Co-Chair

Our 2019 Chimes Advisory Council (CAC) meeting took place over a sunny weekend in September, and McGraw Tower welcomed back 17 dedicated chimesmaster alumni—four short of a nice, round number—from the graduating classes of 1956 through 2016. Huge thanks are due to the current chimesmasters for being such gracious hosts and duet partners. On a personal note, this year's meeting was actually a big homecoming for me, as this was the longest I had ever been away from the tower: one year and three months. May there never be as big a gap in my database entry ever again!

After last year's whirlwind CAC meeting during the sesquicentennial celebration, we went back to basics this year with our traditional, roundtable format. As such, we had the opportunity to think together, under Jennifer Lory-Moran's guidance, on a timely topic: diversity and inclusiveness, both in our music as well as our organization. At Jen's suggestion, we opened this year's council meeting by sharing each of our favorite pieces to play on the chimes. It soon emerged that the composers of these pieces were overwhelmingly white and male; in fact, most of the pieces in our entire library were composed by white men. This realization set the stage for us to contemplate questions such as

- How can we craft musical programs that are representative of our campus community?
- How can we improve the diversity within our group of performers (i.e., our recruitment process)?
- How should we handle the songs in our library that may once have been socially acceptable to play but are now considered controversial?

These are weighty issues, and our discussion this year was only the beginning of a wider conversation on, and self-evaluation of, our responsibilities as the keepers of a very public instrument. Below are just a few initial highlights from our group:

- We will increase our collaboration with cultural interest groups or offices to develop specialty concert programs that may appeal to a wider audience. This will also help us generate new arrangements for our permanent library.
- To reach more of the campus community, we will host tower open houses more frequently. We hope that by making the tower more accessible, more members of the community will be able to see themselves as potential chimesmasters.
- For historical and educational purposes, we will not discard “controversial” pieces already in our library. However, these pieces will be flagged clearly in the database as potentially inflammatory, and the performer will be directed to other, more suitable options.
- If a “controversial” piece is performed, make use of the public note option in the playlist system to provide more context for the performance.

We occasionally receive colorful emails and social media posts citing that the Cornell Chimes are loud, and our concert attendees are not always willing participants. Though frustrating to receive, these sorts of messages also serve as a critical reminder that, as much as we love our instrument, not everyone sees themselves, or their interests, or their identities reflected in our music. We can, and should, do better.

We are glad to begin this important discussion, and we look forward to sharing enjoyment of our incredible bells with as many Cornellians as possible.

We invite you to share any thoughts or reactions by contacting [chimes@cornell.edu](mailto:chimes@cornell.edu). Further, we would like to acknowledge Tiffany Ng, Ph.D., assistant professor of music and carillonist at the University of Michigan, for her editorial on the matter of diversity and inclusiveness in bell music in the *Bulletin*, vol. 68, 2019, published by the Guild of Carillonists of North America.

## Funding Update

Thanks to the generosity of numerous donors, our unrestricted program endowment has reached a principal balance of \$345,000, surpassing our short-term goal of \$325,000! We are nearly halfway to our ultimate goal of \$825,000.

## Special Acknowledgment

As always, the Chimes Advisory Council would like to thank Marisa LaFalce for her tireless stewardship of the chimes program.



Graduates Sonya Chyu (left) and Billie Sun (right) performed their senior recital over Memorial Day weekend, May 2019.

PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

## Chimesmaster Places in “Olympics of Carillon”—How the Chimes to Carillon Journey Begins *continued*

three years of study and practice before he took the exam and was accepted into the GCNA.

Long-time chimes advisor Judy Ogden also found herself bell-less when she relocated to the Midwest to teach at the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan. “Given my bell addiction, I gravitated to the carillon on campus, where I met Margo Halsted. I studied carillon primarily with Margo, who very generously gave me lessons and a great deal of moral support. When she was on sabbatical, I studied with Todd Fair, an excellent carillonneur and a very fine musician.” Judy began her studies with Margo in the fall of 1990 and passed the carillonneur exam at the GCNA Cohasset Congress in the summer of 1996.

Several other alumni chimesmasters have also pursued the instrument after graduation when their jobs and post-graduate studies took them to areas where a carillon was nearby. SiYi (Wang) Feng ’08 studied with Robin Austin at the Princeton University carillon until her graduate studies proved too demanding. In his final year of law school at UC Berkeley, Taras Czebiniak ’06 found time to take a 1-credit course to learn and play a song on the carillon at Sather Tower. Lisa Ngai ’05 also studied for a short time while living in Houston, until she relocated to a city with no bells. Keith Jenkins ’93 never formally studied the carillon, but had the opportunity to play a couple of instruments during cross-country travels including an Oktoberfest performance in Covington, Kentucky. Erica Ho ’13, a PhD student at Yale University, is a member of their guild and hopes to take the GCNA exam in a few years when she has more time to devote to her carillon (and not her graduate) studies. Other chimesmasters, who find themselves in new cities without their beloved Cornell Chimes, have also spent time learning the carillon.

So what attracts chimesmasters to carillons and should we be worried that an interest in the carillon might usurp our beloved chimes? No! Most chimesmasters cited the educational experiences they had at Cornell for piquing their interest in the carillon. These include road trips, meeting carillonneurs—who often conduct our master classes—and opportunities to immerse themselves in carillon culture at the annual GCNA congresses. These experiences are made possible due to funding from the Monica Novakovic Chimes Program Endowment and gifts to the Cornell Chimes General Gift account.

An interest in bells, combined with the fact that most often carillons are better maintained than chimes, means more alumni are gravitating toward learning this instrument after graduation. SiYi said that even today, traveling to a location where there is a carillon is a selling point for picking that destination. Other merits of the carillon include the opportunity to play and arrange a wide variety of music (due to the extensive musical range) and its deep history. Keith Jenkins ’93 actually submitted an arrangement for carillon to the Iowa State Carillon Composition Competition back in 2000 when he was living in Bangladesh far from any bells.

Chimesmasters were in almost total agreement that carillon pros aside, the richness and vibrancy of the Cornell Chimes could not be replaced! Erica may have summarized it best: “Huge and powerful and awesome bells. I, and I think many others, enjoy the physical and mental challenge inherent to playing a 20-ton instrument, for tens of thousands of people, while balancing on one foot, and trying to be expressive and graceful.” Jennifer Lory-Moran ’96, MAT ’97, who is learning to play the carillon using a rented console from

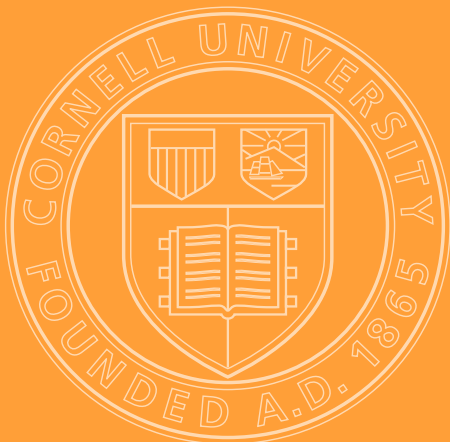
Chime Master and taking lessons via Skype explains, “playing the chimes is a full-body music making experience, where I feel like my ballet background has been almost as useful as my musical background. When I play, my body really feels like it is becoming one with the instrument.”

The opportunity to travel and learn about music through the carillon lens has a direct impact on our own Cornell program. It is thrilling to watch our chimesmasters learn and grow and to apply those experiences to our own instrument as well as continue to pursue a passion for bells after graduation. While it can be rewarding to be part of the larger, more structured carillon community, I agree with Erica: “I think our trans-generational camaraderie stems from knowing that there’s literally no other instrument like this on the planet.”



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

Jen Lory-Moran tries her skills at the 39-bell carillon at Principia College in Elsah, Illinois.



### Your Gift Matters!

**Did you know the Cornell Chimes relies entirely on the support of alumni and friends to fund our program?**

Consider making your gift today to the Cornell Chimes General Fund (#362303) or the Unrestricted Chimes Program Endowment (#0007341).

Learn more at [chimes.cornell.edu/giving](http://chimes.cornell.edu/giving)

## Mark Your Calendar

**February 3–April 26**

*Annual chimesmaster competition*

**February 14**

*Valentine's Day Concert*

**March 12**

*Cornell Giving Day*

**March 28–April 15**

*Spring break: concerts infrequent*

**May 6**

*Study period schedule begins*

**May 23–24**

*Commencement Weekend concerts, open house, and senior recital*

**June 4–7**

*Cornell Alumni Reunion Weekend: many concerts to be performed and alumni chimesmasters are encouraged to play!*

**August 27**

*Classes begin: regular concerts resume*



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Chimesmasters' sock collections are always fun and eclectic!