

Chimes 150 Celebration Draws Chimesmasters from Near and Far

Scott Silverstein '08

On October 7, 1868, nine bells rang out for the first time over Cayuga's waters to inaugurate something revolutionary: a secular, coeducational university embracing all fields of knowledge. In the ensuing 150 years, Cornell and its 250,000 alumni have produced countless scientific and humanitarian achievements. The sound of the bells is a common thread in virtually every one of those lives, thanks to some 150 chimesmasters who continue to enrich and inspire through an inescapable brand of musical joy.



PHOTO BY CORNELL UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY

Current and alumni chimesmasters gather for a group photo during the Chimes Sesquicentennial Celebration and All-Chimesmaster Reunion.

Over Homecoming Weekend 2018, 48 of those chimesmasters returned to Ithaca to honor the sesquicentennial of Cornell's oldest musical tradition. They celebrated it as only they could: by playing a grand chimes concert. This one was livestreamed onto Ho Plaza, where a public audience of hundreds could not only listen but also watch the performance on two giant screens.

Devan Carrington, assistant director of Residential Life, served as master of ceremonies for

the program. He provided an amusing and informative context to the music, which included favorite songs from throughout the ages. (Please see the end of this article for the full program.) Concertgoers were treated to birthday cake, the Glee Club and Chorus accompanying a rendition of "Happy Birthday" and the "Alma Mater," and a perfectly timed performance by the Big Red Band, which marched up Ho Plaza at the concert's conclusion to rally fans for the Homecoming football game.

continued on page 11

Connect to the Cornell Chimes All Year Long!



- **Join chimesfriends-L.** Subscribers to this email list will receive periodic updates about the program, including invitations to special events and other exciting chimes news.
- **Follow us on Facebook:** [facebook.com/chimes.cornell](https://www.facebook.com/chimes.cornell)
- **Join the chimesmasters' private Facebook group or alumni chimesmasters email list.**

To learn more about opportunities to connect with the Cornell Chimes or with alumni chimesmasters, email chimes@cornell.edu today.

Chimesmaster's Corner

Billie Sun '19, Head Chimesmaster



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

Head Chimesmaster
Billie Sun '19



An annual newsletter of the Cornell Chimes

Editor: Marisa LaFalce

Designer: Larissa Hensley

Cornell Chimes

chimes.cornell.edu | chimes@cornell.edu

607.255.5350

3058 South Balch Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853

*Cornell University is an equal-opportunity,
affirmative action educator and employer.*

The year 2018 has been another exciting and collaborative year for the chimes. As always, spring began with our annual chimesmaster competition, and we welcomed new chimesmasters Kevin Cook '21 and Victoria Tan '21 with open arms. In late March, we embarked on a chimes road trip to Newton, Boston, and New Haven, during which we explored new bell towers and met with alumni chimesmasters Bob Feldman '66, PhD '75, Erica Ho '13, and Emily Graf '16.

In April, we were honored to welcome Cornell president Martha Pollack to an afternoon chimes concert. We were proud to continue the tradition of welcoming every Cornell president to the top of the tower. We concluded our spring semester with a follow-up Grateful Dead commemorative concert and a farewell to graduates Joshua Chan '18 and John Lee '18.

Last summer, thanks to our five summer chimesmasters Sonya Chyu '19, Emma Jacob '20, Emily Liu '20, Hans Slechta '20, and Victoria Tan '21, we enjoyed multiple daily concerts, eight specialty concerts, and a return of the Summer Sunday Sunset Series. In August, Gretchen Ryan '97 and honorary chimesmaster Kindra Bell '93 performed Chimes for Parkinson's, a concert that has now raised more than \$15,000 for Parkinson's research. To everyone who made this concert possible: thank you for using the power of music to make an impact in our communities!

In the fall, the Cornell Chimes celebrated their sesquicentennial, and chimesmasters from the classes of 1956 through 2021 joined us for this memorable reunion. As a student chimesmaster, it was exciting to finally put faces to the names of chimesmasters whose compositions and arrangements I've loved for years. Throughout the reunion, I enjoyed hearing old and new perspectives about life as a Cornell chimesmaster, and I felt very lucky to be a small part of chimes history myself.

Other fall highlights included a series of artistic and educational collaborations with the Cornell community. For the first time ever, we

partnered with MUSIC 3140: Instrumentation for Composers to hold a workshop and perform 13 original student compositions for the chimes.

This fall the Cornell Council for the Arts hosted its Biennial. The chimes/tower were hosted in two collaborations. In September, staff from the Department of Fiber Science and Apparel Design in the College of Human Ecology constructed ATGC, an art installation of LEDs in the clock faces depicting genome sequences in human DNA. In October, Cornell music professor Annie Lewandowski and bio-acoustics researcher Katy Payne put together "Cetus: Life After Life," an experimental duet of bells and recorded whale songs.

Reflecting upon my first semester as Head Chimesmaster, I feel very fortunate to have been a part of such an engaging and collaborative fall. This semester reminded me of how much I love working with others, which has actually been one of the driving forces behind my recent career shift from actuarial science to information science. Although I spent most of my undergraduate years preparing for a career in actuarial science, it lacked a certain element of human connection that I've realized I deeply value. With that in mind, I'm now pursuing a career in user experience design, which focuses on improving the usability, accessibility, and enjoyment of interactions with digital products.

Being a chimesmaster helped me realize that I feel most fulfilled when I can connect and empathize with others, whether it's by assuaging prospective chimesmasters' competition stresses or by celebrating a music student's first composition for the chimes. Although my undergraduate career is soon coming to a close, I am immensely grateful for the things the chimes have taught me about myself, about others, and about the power of music. I would like to extend my gratitude to Marisa LaFalce '96, Jen Lory-Moran '96, '97, and the rest of the chimes community for offering me this unique, unforgettable experience at Cornell. Thank you!

Billie Sun is a senior studying mathematics and economics in the College of Arts and Sciences. She looks forward to the prospect of staying at Cornell and pursuing a master's degree in information science. She plans to pursue a career in user experience design after graduation.



I have arranged five songs including music from an episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

The Ithaca and Cornell communities were graced with daily concerts during the summer of 2018 thanks to the presence of, clockwise from top, Hans Slechta '20, Victoria Tan '21, Emma Jacob '20, Emily Liu '20, and Sonya Chyu '19.

Spotlight on Hans Slechta '20

Marisa LaFalce '96

met with Hans, a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences, in mid-December as final exams were winding down.

Good morning, thank you for meeting with me. You are almost to vacation—although you will return to campus soon, right?

I have to be back on January 2 for our [Glee Club] tour. We have a bunch of rehearsals and then leave on the fourth.

How long are you on the road?

From January 4 through 20.

And you are traveling to the East Coast and West Coast?

We're doing Boston, Philadelphia, New York, [Washington,] DC, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Classes start the 22nd, so when you get back to Ithaca that will be it; it's a short time at home.

Yes. I am forty percent done with finals. I have two papers and one exam to go. I am hoping to get it all done before I leave on Saturday evening [December 15]. I have strong motivation since I don't want to do any school-work at home, and I have to be back here on

the second. My last paper is due next Tuesday, December 18.

You are a linguistics major, right? Any minors?

Yes, I am studying linguistics. I have no minors yet.

What does "yet" mean?

I am thinking about a music minor; I only need three more classes to complete it, but I haven't signed up for those last classes yet. I am also two classes away from a physics minor, but I don't think I'll pursue that because I don't feel like taking any more physics classes.

Did you start Cornell as a physics major?

Yes, that's why I am so close.

What made you switch to linguistics?

I discovered I didn't have the math skill or desire to learn the math required at that level. If you take the math out, I still enjoy physics, but together it is just too much math!

I think that can be a surprise for college students. Students often think they have a lot of academic flexibility, and they want to pursue a subject they loved in high school, but especially with sciences, they are surprised by the amount of other math/science they need to take for their particular interest. How did your semester go?

It went really well. I really enjoyed most

of my classes this semester—four linguistics courses and one Russian class. I really liked studying phonetics and learning Russian. I enjoyed throwing myself into linguistics this semester. I learned a lot of theory that I had not yet been exposed to.

Is that elementary Russian?

Yes, the introductory class.

Do you plan to continue?

I am going to try; it doesn't fit well in my schedule next semester, but I am hoping to pursue a self-taught option so that I can then continue next year too, if I can find ways to squeeze it into my schedule.

I have known a few linguistics majors, and I have noticed that they tend to collect languages. Do you know or speak any other languages?

The only language that I am fluent in is English, but I know a lot of German. I just need more vocabulary for full fluency. I have a small amount of Spanish and French knowledge, and a very small amount of Swedish. But I have plans to add to my "language collection."

Nice! Are they all living languages? I know many linguists study dead languages.

Well I will probably get there some day. I have plans to go to graduate school for

historical linguistics, and so probably in my future there are some dead languages like Greek, Latin, and maybe Sanskrit.

You spent last summer doing linguistics research for a faculty member, right?

Yes. I worked with a professor helping to manage his data from an experiment a few years ago. There were three undergrads working on the project. We annotated the sound files with information about what the speakers were doing in the files. We looked for instances where the speakers messed up in their speaking. For example, starting a word and not finishing.

Was it interesting?

It was very interesting. We looked at pronunciations of “okay” and all the productions of that word in his experimental data collection. In the weeks and weeks after we did this work, during our production meetings, we were noticing all of the little things we did when one of us said the word “okay.” You wouldn’t notice the details if you hadn’t spent the time analyzing the distinctions!

Any thoughts on your plans for this summer or is it too early?

I am going to try to do my own linguistics research. Since it would be historical research, I think I can just stay in Ithaca and do the research in the libraries. I want to create a project over the summer that I can then use for a senior honors thesis.

That sounds like a cool project—preparing for next year’s thesis, and because that means you will be in Ithaca and near the bells again! Tell me about being a summer chimesmaster.

It was really fun. I got really good at sight reading because I was playing so many concerts. I just got used to reading music as I was playing. Now when I get spontaneous visitor requests, I can play songs that are a lot more difficult.

A couple of times over the summer visitors requested “Bohemian Rhapsody” and the chimes arrangement is really difficult. I had looked it over before this happened but after looking it over and playing it over the summer, it’s much easier now if I get that request.

How did you get connected to the Cornell Chimes?

The very first time I interacted with the chimes was the summer before I came here. My family had visited Cornell, and my parents had visited the clock tower once when I was meeting with a professor, so they finally got me to make the climb. I think Keith [Jenkins ’93] was playing. After the concert I asked him about the chimes as a musical curiosity, as at that time I had no experience with chimes or carillons. I found out a little about how the program worked from Keith.

During my winter break my freshman year, I was back on campus early for a wind ensemble tour and I saw a poster in Lincoln [Hall] advertising the chimes competition auditions and decided that would be a really interesting thing to do.

I knew that I wanted to do some sort of music stuff on campus, and I wanted it to be different from what I was doing fall semester freshman year. I was just interested in the chimes because I enjoyed walking around campus and hearing them so I decided to audition.

Are there certain songs or genres that you like to play?

I really enjoy hearing Disney songs, but I don’t get around to playing them, because I don’t get around to practicing them as much as I need to. I have only played five, but I really enjoy hearing them.

There are a lot of classical types of music that I really enjoy. I enjoy most of the music in the chimes library, I think. The songs that I have played the most are the songs I enjoy the most. But as I think through that list, it is a very eclectic mix—movie music, TV show music, Disney songs, classical music.

Have you written any arrangements or original compositions for the chimes?

Yes. I have not composed anything, but I have arranged five songs including music from an episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. I have also arranged things from the movies *E.T.* and *Jurassic Park* because we didn’t have anything to play on request if someone wanted that music. I also wrote an arrangement of “Africa” by Toto that is currently in the process of being “propped,” as well as an arrangement of the *Jeopardy* theme song.

I think the “Jeopardy theme” would be an excellent musical addition to play for final exams along with “If I Only Had a Brain.”

Someone requested it for a wedding concert this year. And when I heard that from Billie [Sun ’19], I thought that would be really fun to add to our library since we didn’t have it. I am trying to get it accepted [into the music library].

You mentioned being part of the Wind Ensemble; what other instruments do you play?

I’ve played cello since second grade. My mom is a cello teacher so I learned from her. I’ve played percussion since fourth grade. I briefly picked up trombone my senior year of high school because they needed trombones for the high school jazz band. My brother had an extra [trombone] at home. The band director was desperate for trombones. It was an odd year for the jazz band; the trombone section was composed of members of the rhythm section who played multiple instruments.

What made you choose Cornell?

I have to think back to my college application process for that. I think I realized at some point that my grades were good enough to look at Ivy League schools, so I just added all of them to my college spreadsheet at the time. I slowly removed schools as I learned more about them. Some were just too far away and some I didn’t like their campus location—too city.

Cornell was the only Ivy that I actually applied to. When I first started my applications, I had Cornell as my third choice. The school I applied to early decision was Swarthmore, where I eventually got deferred and then rejected. So I was looking at choice number two—RPI [Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute] and ultimately decided Cornell was a better choice.

That turned out to be a very good decision now that I am a linguistics major!

You were in the Wind Ensemble as a first-year student, do you still perform with them?

No, just one semester during my freshman fall. That fall I just got involved in too many music ensembles—winds, marching band, percussion ensemble, and Glee Club. The only one I continued after freshman fall was the Glee Club because the rehearsal times worked out best for my schedule, and it didn’t require me to bring things with me. I didn’t need to be carrying mallets or sticks around.

Just your voice?

Yep. A very convenient group to be in.

You are wearing an “I Sing Low” hoodie. Does that mean you are a bass?

Yes.

You are in a special position. You are part of two historic music groups that both celebrated the sesquicentennial this year. What did you think?

It was interesting to see the process. The chimes alumni group led the way for us. Glee Club took advice from alumni, but then a group of students did most of the planning for the sesquicentennial. The big tour the Glee Club is doing this year was planned entirely by students. They are making all the connections and travel arrangements. Alumni in the six cities the Glee Club is going to will work to organize an alumni presence at the concert and join us for some songs at the end of the concert. It is entirely student led for the Glee Club sesquicentennial.

Why do you think it is that way?

The chimes had to be alumni driven because our organization is so small. There are so few chimesmasters at a given time, and they’re very busy with classes and other pursuits. There is not enough time for everyone to plan everything well. Doing the chimes reunion this year worked out well, and students wouldn’t have

been able to plan that well.

The Glee Club focuses on student leadership a lot. It gives student leaders a lot of responsibility and expects a level of commitment from general members which this year also means being committed to sesqui [events]. In other years we commit that time to our regular concert schedule. This year it's concert schedule plus sesqui activities. Glee Club also doesn't organize reunions the way the chimes do. Glee Club brings a lot of alumni back for concerts so in essence they come back for a concert, it's not a concerted effort to have the Glee Club bring back alumni to do tours or to organize an alumni glee club. It's not on the Glee Club radar. Whereas chimes brings alumni back for reunions and there are tours, lectures, etc. There is a lot more organization for chimesmaster alumni to come back and have things for them to do.

Glee Club will get alumni back for a concert and then alumni are responsible for finding what else they are going to do while they are here.

We appreciate the Glee Club and Cornell Chorus joining us in our sesquicentennial celebration singing "Happy Birthday" and the "Alma Mater."

I am pretty sure they got a kick out of it.

So you have a very music-filled world; what do you like to do when you are not doing music?

I enjoy reading. I have a dream of eventually writing a fiction book, but that seems very far off. I would need to have a lot more time on my hands to actually write a book. I have ideas for books I'd write some day, but they need a lot more development time before I try to commit them to paper.

How do you spend a typical Friday night?

That's a good question. I have no idea what I do on Friday nights! Sometimes I go to concerts, sometimes I watch a movie. Sometimes I just play games. Normally I spend time with some subset of friends on Friday nights; whatever we wind up doing that Friday night is what I wind up doing.

Are there any questions that I haven't asked that you wish that I had?

Not that I can think of. Thank you.

Well, thank you for taking the time to speak with me, Hans. Good luck with the rest of your final exams and enjoy your break!



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

Costumed chimesmasters turn out for the annual Halloween spooktacular!

Alumni Notes

Many alumni chimesmasters and their families caught up during the chimesmaster reunion and sesquicentennial celebration in September, so we have just a few updates in this edition of "Alumni Notes."

Taras Czebiniak '06 wrote, "I don't think I've yet shared a somewhat recent job change. In mid-2017, I became an associate at Garfunkel Wild, a health care law firm in Great Neck in their Information and Technology group. We work mainly on technology contracts for hospitals and health systems. It's challenging work in a rewarding field and industry. Musically I continue as a tenor in the 'Promin' Ukrainian vocal ensemble, and of course, "Carol of the Bells," (in the original Ukrainian) is a favorite. I still live in Hell's Kitchen and would love to meet with visiting chimes folks who find themselves in NYC!"

The chimes continue to have a "satellite chime" in Newton, Massachusetts. **Bob Feldman '66, PhD '75** reports, "I continue to play the First Unitarian Society of Newton (FUSN) chime occasionally after their Sunday service, as does **Cathy (Jordan) Longley-Cook '03, MAT '05**. We also both played for the Christmas Eve services earlier this week. We only had one summer evening chime

concert this year, in August. Cathy, **Scott (Silverstein '08)**, and I played. Even though it was raining, we had 40 people show up."



PHOTO BY BOB FELDMAN

Scott Silverstein '08 and Laura Schutz don't let the rain prevent them from enjoying a concert on the Newton bells.

Many alumni returned—and played the bells—for Cornell Reunion in June, including **Peter Im '13, Keith Jenkins '93, Scott Silverstein '08, and Connie van Hoesel '93, MS '95**. A reunion highlight was the ice cream social hosted by the Class of '58 (and coordinated by **Dick '58, PhD '65 and Connie '58 Haggard**) during which

George Ubogy '58 played some golden oldies on the bells. Since the class of '58 concert, we've received two requests for similar reunion events—what trend-setters! **Taras Czebiniak '06** and **Jenn Turney MS '89** also returned to perform the annual Donor Appreciation Concert.

After reunion we had June visits (and concerts!) from **Joe Dalaker '95, Bryan Chong '13, MEng '14 and Erica Ho '13, and Keiran Cantilina '15 and Karen (Ren) Ortega '16**. Keiran and Ren were passing through Ithaca as they made visits to family and friends before relocating to Belgium where Keiran is studying the carillon!

On a sadder note, we regret to notify you that several chimesmasters passed away in the last year. We remember **Robert (Bob) Frankenfeld '45, Fremont McKenrick '48, and Charles (Chuck) Swanson '49**. We also remember Barbara Gottling '54, spouse of **Phil Gottling '52**.

Thank you to our generous alumni and friends for their gifts to the Cornell Chimes last year (fiscal year July 2017 through June 2018). Your gift today will make an immediate and lasting impact on the chimes program.

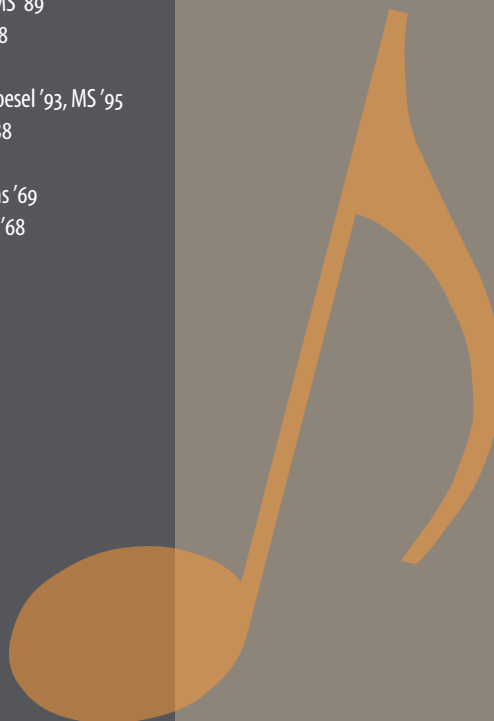
Serim An '17
Lawrence N. Bailis '66
Ellen Z. Baum '81
Howard J. Baum
Michael Berkwits '86
Samuel Birmaher '10
Eileen Blecher
Kathryn Kraus Bolks '91
Sean M. Bolks '90
Kristin Overgaard Bond '85
Robert D. Bond
Shari E. Brasner '87
Nancy G. Brown '85
Timothy B. Brown '84, MBA '92
Joseph A. Burke
Kevin M. Casey
Lauren F. Casey '02
Richard Chang PhD '91
Fredric L. Cohen '81
Jeff M. Cohen '87
Elizabeth A. Cowles '82
Richard S. Cowles '82
Crystal Cun '07
Jennifer L. Cunningham '92
Mary Lou J. Currivan '68
Dell Computer Corporation
Holly E. Dowell
Marcy Dubroff '84
Susan J. Egloff '68, JD '80
Robert L. Erickson MEng '77
Robert L. Feldman '66, PhD '75
Susan E. Feldman '67
Jeff Giroux
Lisa Giroux
Barbara Allen Grambow '56
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
Roger M. Haydon
Erica Ho '13
John H. Hoare '56, MBA '57
Mary Jane Hoare
Margaret C. Hobbie '72
John A. Hupcey '74
Peter Im '13
Grace V. Jean '00
Carol Jordan '62
David Jordan '62
Courtney M. Kimball '01
Georgeanna J. Klingensmith
William C. Klingensmith '64, MD '68
Esther E. Koblenz '72
Marisa P. LaFalce '96
Thomas P. LaFalce '94
Charles A. Lo Casto '80
Catherine Longley-Cook '03, MAT
Giles Longley-Cook '04
Neil McCormick '58
Michael G. Mage '55
Rose G. Mage '56
Lane I. McClelland '70, MBA '73, JD '74
Ildiko C. Mitchell '69
Carolyn Chauncey Neuman '64
John L. Neuman '62
Waitz Ngan '02
Andrew M. Novakovic
Deborah L. Novakovic
Joanna F. Novakovic '04

Steven M. Novakovic '04
Judy S. Ogden '71, MPS '75, JD '77
Richard A. Olson '97
Jane Park '97
Deborah Passmore
Steven Passmore
Pers Family Foundation
Joe Pesaresi '75
Mary Pesaresi '75
Christine D. Piatko PhD '93
Franklin T. Russell '58, MBA '60
Gretchen Ryan '97
Peter Ryde
Steven J. Santurri '87
Gioia A. Sawchuk '73
John A. Sawchuk '71
Laura Schutz
Renee O. Setter '13
William J. Sibal '64
David Silverstein '68, JD '73
Leslie Roth Silverstein '73
Scott A. Silverstein '08
Harry Simon '70
Robert W. Staley '57, MBA '59
Jennifer S. Turney MS '89
George A. Ubogy '58
Jo Ubogy
Concordia R. Van Hoesel '93, MS '95
Christine P. Wang '88
SiYi Wang '08
Elizabeth J. Wiggans '69
George R. Wiggans '68
Mary J. Wolfe '71
David S. Yeh

Anonymous Gift Moves Unrestricted Program Endowment Forward

An anonymous gift in honor of Phyllis Dittman McClelland '43 will increase the value of the Cornell Chimes Unrestricted Program Endowment by more than \$60,000. We are grateful for the program stability this unrestricted support will provide.



Cornell Chimesmaster Road Trip

Emma Jacob '20

This past spring break, the chimesmasters took a road trip to Boston and Yale University. We had the opportunity to play on the 11-bell chime at the First Unitarian Society in Newton (FUSN), also known as “Bob Feldman’s chime,” and the 54-bell carillon at Yale University. We had initially planned to visit Wellesley College to play on their 32-bell carillon, but a storm right before our trip caused damage to their tower, making our visit impossible.

Although none of our chimesmaster alumni who currently play at FUSN were available during our visit, we had fun tinkering around and playing some chimes favorites on their bells, in addition to meeting two of their own bell ringers (Gayle Smalley and Paul Antonucci).

One of my favorite memories from the trip was attempting to, and watching other people, play songs as a trio in a round format—it certainly is much more of a challenge on a smaller stand at FUSN than on our own! Although it was initially disappointing to miss out on the Wellesley visit, the change in plans on Saturday allowed the chimesmasters a chance to explore the historic district in Boston and walk a good portion of the Freedom Trail. We were also able to meet up for dinner Saturday evening with Emily Graf '16.

On Sunday we traveled to New Haven. Our host was Erica Ho '13! Erica is pursuing a PhD at Yale, and she was accepted into the Yale Guild during her first year of study there. She was instrumental in helping to plan our visit.



PHOTO BY EMMA JACOB

Ilia Karp '15 and John Lee '18 play “Arrival in New Haven” on the Yale carillon.

Thanks to Erica, we met many other members of the Yale Guild and talked about our bell ringing experiences over lunch and ice cream. We played during their 12:30pm ringing and watched her play as well. It was very interesting to see how different their instrument and organization is from our own.

The trip gave us a good perspective on just how varied and versatile all bell instruments are—each is unique in its playing stand and usually has its own oddities to work around. Playing on a carillon and other bell instruments

is a challenge for many of us, but as Ilia (Karp '15) and John (Lee '18) rang out Dick Lee’s “Arrival in New Haven” at Yale, it was clear that the magic of the bells transcends the particular instrument.

The trip was a great experience for all. I would like to thank all those who made it possible through gifts to the Monica Novakovic Chimes Program Endowment.



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

Road trip roommates Emily Liu '20 and Billie Sun '19 hanging out.



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

The Yale carillon bells



Jennifer up close with one of the bells of the Rainwater Carillon in Elsah, Illinois

PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN



Jean L. Rainwater Carillon at Principia College in Elsah, Illinois, high above the banks of the Mississippi River

PHOTO BY JENNIFER LORY-MORAN



Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, Springfield, IL

PHOTO BY JENNIFER LORY-MORAN

Guild of Carillonneurs Congress Meets in Springfield, Illinois

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

The 76th Congress of the Guild of Carillonneurs of North America (GCNA) was held June 4 through 8, 2018, at the Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon in Springfield, Illinois. The 67-bell carillon is located in beautiful Washington Park, in a quiet setting surrounded by gardens. Presentations were held throughout the week—one was an introduction to a number of new bell businesses (a bell founder, a bell/clock maintenance company, and a group that advocates for bell towers and instruments in the Chicago area); another presenter gave a detailed explanation of how to interpret and play a wide range of baroque ornamentations on the carillon.

This year there was a post-Congress trip to Principia College, about two hours away in Elsah, Illinois. The college's 39-bell Jean L. Rainwater Carillon is in a small church high above the Mississippi River. The generous hosts at Principia provided attendees

with the opportunity to play the carillon for hours. The hosts also demonstrated the campus organs. (Many carillonneurs are also wonderful organists.)

As always, attending the Congress provided a valuable opportunity for me to connect with carillonneurs from around the country and learn more about the art of playing the bells. These connections have been critical in growing our chimes program over the last 20 years; enhancing our master classes, our collaborations with other instruments, and our community events. My work as chimes advisor has been heavily influenced by the GCNA Congress presentations I have attended and the discussions I have had with professional carillonneurs. I find that fellow bell musicians are always willing to provide feedback and advice from their own experiences.

Related to this, in July, I collaborated with the University of Rochester carillonneurs in a recital honoring the 100th anniversary of World War I. And thanks to the kindness of many carillonneurs in the Philadelphia area, I was able to visit five more carillons this

summer and play on three of them! A special thanks goes out to the carillonneurs who provided consultation on our first, and successful, chimes/electronic sound collaboration this past October (read more in "Notes from the Chimes Advisor").

I look forward to seeing some of you at the next GCNA Congress at Bok Tower in Lake Wales, Florida, June 10 through 14, 2019.

Notes from the Chimes Advisor

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

It has been a memorable year in McGraw Tower, with many exciting events, big and small. Looking at these events, as described in Billie's "Chimesmaster's Corner" article, I hope you get a sense of the large number of special projects and commitments the chimesmasters undertook this year. When I look back at the last year, I realize that one of our biggest themes was sharing. We have dedicated a lot of our time and resources over the last year to sharing our instrument with both the Cornell community and with other musicians in ways that we haven't done before.

During the Chimes Sesquicentennial Celebration and All-Chimesmaster Reunion, we had a live video feed at the bottom of the tower for the first time ever. Emcee Devan Carrington introduced the pieces we performed and gave context for the role the chimes have played in life at Cornell over the last 150 years. The presence of the large screen on Ho Plaza made it possible to share the experience with a large crowd (including the Cornell Chorus, the Cornell Glee Club, and passersby). It also meant that audience members who were not physically able to climb the tower were not excluded from enjoying the event. A special thanks to Barny Cole and his Calf Audio staff for the many feet of cable they ran to make that feed possible! Don't miss the chimes sesquicentennial video on Cornell Cast by searching "chimes," at www.cornell.edu/video.

We also partnered with several non-chimesmasters to share the experience of making music on our instrument. Eli Marshall, a lecturer in the Department of Music, had his composition students start the year by

composing a piece for the chimes—an instrument they collectively knew nothing about. Annie Lewandowski, another lecturer in the music department, created an innovative piece that combined recordings of whale songs with chimes music. This project received funding as part of the Cornell Council for the Arts 2018 Biennial. Listen to the performance on YouTube

at youtube.com/watch?v=I76ure6WCSs. And for Kindra Bell '93, learning to play the chimes and performing for her family and friends was a way to fight Parkinson's disease, as well as a dream come true.

I am so grateful for every one of these musicians who found us this year and let us know they wanted to collaborate. In today's world, there are so many pulls on our time that it is impossible to do it all, and I admit that I often advise the head chimesmaster that it is okay to say "no!" But how much would we have missed this year by saying no to any one of these requests? Our program is so much richer due to these collaborators and the unique ideas for using our instrument that

they brought forth. The joy and delight I saw from the composition students, from the crowd listening to whales singing from the tower, and from Kindra and her supportive family and friends reminded me of how truly special our instrument is, how much it means to so many people, and how important it is to keep sharing!

Before closing, I also want to say what an absolute joy it was to see so many alumni friends at the chimesmaster reunion and sesquicentennial celebration last September. All of the hard work put forth by Marisa LaFalce and the sesquicentennial planning committee resulted in a terrific event—but even the best-planned party is a flop if no one shows up—so thank you all for coming home to Ithaca! I loved seeing the faces (and young families) of so many chimesmasters that I have played with over the last (oh-my-is-it-really-that-many) years. And it was wonderful to meet many new people as well. I hope you will all come back again and come back often, because our chimes family is one of the most supportive, amazing networks I know, and we love to see you all! Speaking of families, I thought you all would appreciate how my daughter has grown through the years. We'll be spending Spring Break touring colleges this year!



Fiona Lory-Moran under the desk at the playing stand level. Photo from fall 2005 *Cornell Chimes Newsletter*.



Annie Lewandowski, lecturer from the Department of Music, preparing for the premiere of "Cetus"

PHOTO BY JENNIFER LORY-MORAN



Fiona Lory-Moran under the chimes desk in the fall of 2018!

PHOTO BY JENNIFER LORY-MORAN

Chimes Advisory Council Updates

Erica Ho '13, Chimes Advisory Council Co-Chair

This year with the sesquicentennial celebration, we changed our Chimes Advisory Council (CAC) meeting format. Typically we have a whole weekend dedicated to discussing chimes business—and, of course, chiming. This past September we held an abbreviated meeting, which was open to all visiting chimesmasters.

Funding Update

Taras Czebiniak '06, representing the Chimes Endowment Information and Contribution Solicitation Committee (CEICSC, or “Cakes”), reported that the unrestricted program endowment has reached a principal of \$289,000. Our next goal is \$325,000, to eliminate our budget shortfall; ultimately we aim to reach \$825,000 to become self-sustaining.

Our annual donor appreciation concert was performed during the university's alumni reunion weekend in June by Taras Czebiniak '06, Scott Silverstein '08, and Jenn Turney MS '89.

2010–2018 Cornell Chimes and McGraw Tower Highlights

CAC co-chair Jenn Turney summarized memorable moments and milestones since the last chimesmaster reunion in 2010. Due to space limitations, just a few of the highlights are reported below. Please check out past newsletters (chimes.cornell.edu/newsletters.html) for details:

2010: The Chimes Advisory Council lays the groundwork for the chimes unrestricted program endowment. The fund reaches the required minimum endowment level of \$100,000 in 2013.

2012: The ChimeScan project, spearheaded by Keith Jenkins '93, digitizes the entire music library, making it part of the online database. *Music from the Tower* compact disk is released. Erica Ho '13 and Barrett Smith '14 create the Cornell Chimes Facebook pages (facebook.com/chimes.cornell) with more than 1,000 followers.

2013: The hour bells become programmable remotely (no more dashing to the tower and punching buttons for the head chimesmaster!)

2014: The competition coordinator role is separated out from head chimesmaster responsibilities, allowing for expanded leadership opportunities for students.

2015: LED lighting is installed in the clock faces, improving lighting consistency and expanding color options.

2016: Air conditioning is installed at the playing stand level. A panic button is also installed at the playing stand level for safety reasons.

2018: Access to the tower is now granted via proximity card readers, replacing the earlier card-swipe system. Happy 150 years of Cornell Chimes!

The Sesquicentennial Planning Committee Signs Off

The sesquicentennial planning committee was formed at the 2016 CAC meeting and consisted of Marisa LaFalce '96, Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, MAT '97, Daniel Zlatin MS '80, Jenn Turney MS '89, Grace Jean '00, Lauren Casey '02, Gretchen Ryan '97, Scott Silverstein '08, Erica Ho '13, Bryan Chong '13, '14, Emily Graf '16, Charlie Xu '16, Hans Slechta '20, and Margaret Hobbie '72. Over the course of 22 months, the committee logged monthly conference calls and innumerable email exchanges, through which the plans for sesqui festivities took form.

Inspired by the ideas generated at the 2016 CAC meeting, the planning process began with brainstorming how to best engage past and present chimesmasters, as well as how to include the wider Cornell and Ithaca community. After weighing date options for the event, we settled on Cornell Homecoming Weekend, in order to maximize the number of potential attendees from the broader community and to make it accessible for our current chimesmasters. The final months of our planning were devoted to defining and configuring the specifics for our weekend.

If you were unable to attend the sesquicentennial due to timing, I was in the same boat! There must have been something special about that weekend, as I had not one but two different scheduling conflicts, both of which were in place more than a year before the actual event. It was bittersweet to take part in the planning, knowing that I would not be present for the actual celebration. It is my personal mission to have our next chimesmaster reunion take place over the summer, which I hope will be a more flexible time of year.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for Marisa LaFalce and her tireless and generous leadership in the planning process. With no exaggeration, the success—and the very existence—of our sesquicentennial weekend would not have been possible without years of Marisa's behind-the-scenes coordinating. My favorite part of (hearing about) the weekend was when Grace Jean and Daniel Zlatin took the microphone from Marisa at the Saturday night dinner to recognize her efforts and surprise her with a token of our appreciation. Again, thank you Marisa!

Last, special thanks go to my CAC co-chair Jenn Turney for leading this year's council meeting solo; to Scott Silverstein and Grace Jean who filled me in so vividly that I felt as if I was there, too; and to countless other chimesmaster legends whose social media posts I eagerly followed throughout this historic weekend!



Cornell president Martha Pollack, aided by then head chimesmaster John Lee '18, plays the hour bells.

PHOTO BY CORNELL UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY

Chimes 150 Celebration Draws Chimesmasters from Near and Far *continued*

Reunion festivities began Friday afternoon with a chimes archive exhibit in Kroch Library, followed by a kid-friendly spaghetti dinner. We greatly anticipated the Homecoming laser light show at Schoellkopf Field, choreographed this year around celebrating the chimes. Alas, the Ithaca weather deities had other plans and served up fog and thunderstorms, forcing the show to be canceled. It dampened the grass but not our spirits.

Saturday morning the Chimes Advisory Council held a brief meeting in McGraw Hall, followed by a joke-filled presentation by Keith Jenkins '93 about composing music for chimes and where he finds inspiration. Immediately following the grand concert, the chimesmasters split up based on graduation year for lunch and personal time with their peers. Margaret Hobbie '72 hosted alumni from her era at her Ithaca home; alumni from the early 2000s headed up the lake to dine at the Glenwood Pines.

For chimesmasters who yearned to ring the bells again, McGraw Tower was open for friendly play time all afternoon, opposite the football game. Some played easy duets with current students for a low-stress experience, and others were content to play the practice stand. For those who stayed outside the tower, the Willard Straight Hall Art Gallery served as a hospitality room with refreshments and chimes memorabilia as well as a chimes history quiz compiled by Daniel Zlatin MS '80.

As sunset approached, the current chimesmasters treated the alumni to a recital with several new additions to the files including "Variations on a Theme" by Paganini, a collaborative arrangement compiled by George Ubogy '58. Then the group transitioned to a buffet banquet at the Statler Hotel. There was more open play time after dinner, and those who stayed until Sunday enjoyed an

architectural campus tour given by historian Roberta Moudry '81.

We owe endless gratitude to Chimes Program Coordinator Marisa LaFalce '96, who took the lead in planning this memorable event. Marisa ran monthly meetings of the planning committee (a sub-group of the Chimes Advisory Council) and worked out the logistics for the entire weekend schedule. And she still managed to slip in a few surprises—from bell-shaped cookies at the Friday night dinner, to Chimes 150 temporary tattoos at the grand concert (distributed and applied by her son Tom), to a guest appearance at the banquet by none other than Jennie McGraw. Here's hoping we can coax Marisa out of retirement to plan our 200th anniversary too!

MUSICAL PROGRAM FOR THE CHIMES SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENT, 9/23/18

- "Hail, Columbia" (Philip Phile)
- "Jennie McGraw Rag" (Fiske)
- "Give My Regards to Davy" (G. M. Cohan)
- "My Old Cornell" ("Take Me Back to the Old Days")
(W. A. Dillon)
- "If I Only Had a Brain" (Harold Arlen)
- "Here Comes the Sun" (The Beatles)
- "Imagine" (John Lennon)
- "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" (Harold Arlen)
- "You Are My Sunshine" (Jimmie Davis
and Charles Mitchell)
- "Under the Sea" (Alan Menken)
- "Hedwig's Theme" (John Williams)
- "Clocks" (Coldplay)
- "Happy Birthday"
- "Cornell Alma Mater" (H. S. Thompson)

**Chimes Sesquicentennial video on
Cornell Cast: search "chimes" at
www.cornell.edu/video**



Members of the Cornell Chorus and Glee Club lead the audience (including Susan H. Murphy '73, PhD '94, former vice president of Student and Academic Services) in a "Happy Birthday" serenade to the chimes.



Devan Carrington, assistant director of Residential Life emcees the sesquicentennial celebration on Ho Plaza.



Sonya Chyu '19 and Hans Slechta '20 perform a duet during the sesquicentennial celebration.



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.html.

Mark Your Calendar

February 4–April 27

Annual chimesmaster competition

March 9

Chimes Master Class

March 30–April 7

Spring break: concerts infrequent

May 8

Study period schedule begins

May 24–26

Commencement Weekend concerts, open house, and senior recital

June 6–9

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

August 29

Classes begin: regular concerts resume

PHOTO BY CAMERON POLLACK



McGraw Tower, dressed for the annual Valentine's Day concert