

Chimesmaster's Corner

Kevin Cook '21, Head Chimesmaster

It has been a crazy year for the Cornell Chimes! Due to the ongoing pandemic, we have had to make many changes around the tower to ensure everyone's safety. While we are lucky to be able to play our regular concert schedule, the tower is closed to the general public, and all performances are solos—no duets allowed. Everyone inside the tower must wear a mask at all times unless performing a concert or practicing alone in the practice room. Anyone playing on either console must wash their hands before doing so and wipe down any shared surfaces with disinfectant afterwards. These are just a few of the many protocols we need to follow. In some ways the tower is almost unrecognizable, but we were all willing to do whatever necessary to play our beloved bells once again.

If we had told the compets in January 2020 that they would be signing up for the longest competition in history, I'm sure that many would have reconsidered. Students were sent home from Ithaca just as coached concerts began in the middle of March. Throughout the summer, we battled with questions of how and when we would be able to continue the competition, or even if it could continue at all. In late October, as we managed judged

concerts in chilly temperatures and shorter days, we finally welcomed our three newest chimesmasters: Carey Lau '22, Jenna Mertz '23, and Sebastian Guo '23.

Even with the lengthy competition taking up so much of the fall semester, we were able to squeeze in some memorable moments and concerts, such as our annual Halloween concert, our livestreamed StayHomecoming, and holiday concerts. But for me, the most memorable moment was the Welcome Concert at the beginning of the semester. This was the first time any of us had played the chimes in more than six months. I will never forget the feeling of playing the Alma Mater to start off that concert. After being away from campus for so long, the sound of the chorus ringing out across Ithaca rivaled that of my first ever concert as a compet.

While this may not be the way I expected to end my senior year at Cornell, I am grateful for the constant presence of the chimes through it all, which will draw me back to campus for years to come!

Kevin Cook is a senior in the College of Engineering studying computer science. After graduation, he will be working as a software engineer at Duolingo.



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Kevin Cook '21 has been playing the chimes since his first year at Cornell. He also plays trumpet in the wind symphony.

Connect to the Cornell Chimes All Year Long!

- New! Instagram @CornellChimes
- Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/chimes.cornell
- Join the chimesmasters' private Facebook group or alumni email list. Email chimes@cornell.edu to learn more.



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Notes from the Chimes Advisor

Jen Lory-Moran '96, '97

It has been so quiet in the tower this year—no visitors asking questions, no children underfoot. For the most part I've found it peaceful, rather than lonely, as going to campus to play the chimes is one of the only times I leave my house these days.

The opportunity to make music has brought me so much comfort this year. I dreaded the prospect of that empty tower last spring, but now I've been so appreciative of the escape it offers me.

Similarly, I was not looking forward to having the Chimes Advisory Council meeting over Zoom, but then our time spent in breakout rooms catching up with each other was an absolute joy. It was great to see everyone again, including many of you whom I haven't seen in years!

In December, we couldn't have our chimes holiday party at my house, so instead we sent Secret Santa presents through the mail (I wonder if they have all arrived yet?) and gathered for a Zoom holiday party. I was delighted when the chimesmasters introduced me to a party game that we could all play together online.

Throughout this year, I find myself appreciating the small things again and again—the quiet hush of snow on the trees, the excitement of discovering a new favorite piece of music, and the opportunities for any moments of connection with others. Even if connections happen over Facebook livestreams or Zoom grids, I am so grateful that there are ways for us to stay connected at this time. I cherish my connection with each one of you, and I am so glad that the chimes have brought us together. Please reach out any time and let us know how WE can be there for YOU.



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Favorite pieces to play:
"Be Thou My Vision" and
"I See the Light"
from *Tangled*.
My favorite duets are
"Fuzzy Blue Lights" and
"Traverse Town."

Student Spotlight

Marisa LaFalce '96

Name: Alex Koenigsberger

Class Year: 2021

College/Major: Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE)

Number of Years as a Chimesmaster: 1.5

Favorite chimes pieces to play: There are so many great pieces! For solos I'd say "Be Thou My Vision" and "I See the Light" from *Tangled*. My favorite duets are "Fuzzy Blue Lights" and "Traverse Town." Shout out to Bryan Chong '13, '14 (BHC) for having arranged a piece in each category!

Favorite pieces you arranged for the chimes: "Oogway Ascends" from *Kung Fu Panda* and "Portals" from *Avengers: Endgame*. There are

a few duets I've recently worked on that I'm really excited about, but, unfortunately, have not been able to try out due to social distancing restrictions.

Musical interests beyond chimes: I took piano lessons and played flute at school when I was younger, and then played around with production software in late high school/early college.

What drew you to the chimes? This is actually a pretty fun story. I became friends with Kevin Cook '21 (KJC) freshman year, and he became a chimesmaster that spring. I didn't really think about trying out myself until I went on a tour of McGraw Tower with my ENGRG Peer Advising group in the fall of my sophomore year. Sonya Chyu '19 (SSC), who gave the tour,

advertised the upcoming competition. When I asked a question about the time commitment, my advisees all began persuading me to sign up. Thinking that it would be better to enter the competition and drop out if necessary than to later regret not having tried at all, I put my name down. I guess the rest is history! Sonya was one of my coaches during round two, so I give her credit for guiding my journey to becoming a chimesmaster from start to finish.

Other activities: Orientation leader, Engineering peer advisor, TA for Intro Digital Logic, Cornell Catholic.

Post-graduation plans: Stay one more semester to complete an M.Eng in ECE and then, hopefully, work in either IT or computer architecture.

Thank you to our generous alumni and friends for your gifts to the Cornell Chimes this year. Your gift today will make an immediate and lasting impact on the program. Learn more at chimes.cornell.edu/giving.

Cornell Chimes Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives

Victoria Tan '21

From an insightful 2019 Chimes Advisory Council meeting (see the *Winter 2019 Cornell Chimes Newsletter* at chimes.cornell.edu/media), we came away with three goals for greater diversity and inclusion (D&I) around the Cornell Chimes:

- 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?

As the 2020 chimes competition coordinator, my diversity efforts focused on a wider-reaching marketing push:

- Emails to residence halls, professors, clubs, cultural groups, diversity organizations
- Flyers around campus
- Open houses during orientation, family weekend

The turnout remained not very diverse, racially or academically. My leaning was to try to redirect promotion efforts, and I'm proud to say we've come up with initiatives and mechanisms to address diversity and inclusion.

Immediate action items (Spring 2021):

- Prep for public workshops (when it is safe to host) by arranging more simple duets for chimesmasters to play with students
- Hold a new arrangement competition to incentivize arranging diverse music
- Continue themed and collaborative concerts
- Gather song arrangement suggestions from the public

Medium action items (Fall 2021):

- Understand how other student organizations are addressing diversity and inclusion
- Offer hands-on workshops through residential communities as well as certain communities from which we lack representation

Long-term action items:

- Create a new position for diversity and inclusion and/or outreach
- Potentially revise the competition structure to be more inclusive, e.g., does a student who is studying and working one or two student jobs also have time to do the competition?

It feels like we are inching toward our goals with tangible action items, and I'm excited for what the future holds!



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In Remembrance

Chimesmasters who passed away since the publication of our last newsletter: Faith Hall '46 and Charles (Chuck) Swanson '49. We also remember Susan (Sue) Feldman '67—spouse of Bob Feldman '66, '75, she was the ultimate chimes fan.

