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Chime Day, Bells, Swing Dancing, and More at the 2002 GCNA Congress

Catherine Jordan '03

The highlight of the 2002 Guild of Carillonners in North America (GCNA) Congress for me was swing dancing with Bob Feldman '66, '75. He sure knows how to move! Lauren Marino '02 and I learned a great deal in the four days we spent at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, in addition to Bob being a great dancer. The long weekend was packed with lectures and recitals that truly demonstrated the extent of musicianship that can be achieved on the carillon and the huge amount of work that goes into producing quality bells and innovative music for the instrument. One particularly interesting recital featured a piece entitled *Six Treatments for Carillon*, by Stephen Rush of the University of Michigan. The performance used not only bells but also a computer and amplifiers to treat them as you would an electric guitar, adding eerie echoes and cheerful accents. The music was accompanied by modern dance on the lawn in front of the Lurie Carillon. The experience was bell music as we had never seen or heard it before!

The 2002 GCNA was also an important step in strengthening the chime community across the nation. The Congress included meetings for chime players to get acquainted with one another, share information and even some music, and take advantage of the nearby Kerrytown chime. The Kerrytown chime is a 17-bell instrument with a playing stand based on Cornell's console, housed in a shopping center in downtown Ann Arbor. With the



Lauren Marino '02 (top) and Cathy Jordan '03 in the belfry of the 60-bell Lurie Carillon.

playing stand located in a nook just inside the main entrance to the shopping center, it is a very public instrument. Three times a week, it is open to the public for play-by-number and other activities. During the GCNA weekend, it received plenty of action, including a tour and open playing for chimers, and a recital given by Judy Ogden '71, '75, '77, Lauren, and myself. The recital was advertised as "The World's Best Chime Players" -no pressure to perform or anything!

We experienced incredible recitals, wonderful dinners, interesting lectures, and a crash course in playing a chime that doesn't have a G#. In addition to these valuable experiences, Lauren and I will also remember enjoying ice cream with carillonneurs from Yale and U.C. Berkeley, basking in the sun on the grass of the *Wave Field*, a living sculpture near the Lurie Tower, climbing amongst the bells of the Lurie and Burton towers, and meeting bell lovers from all over the world. It was also a happy reunion with Chimes alumni Bob Feldman, Judy Ogden and George Ubogy '58 all present, and with my former carillon teacher at the University of Connecticut, David Maker. Having returned from a study abroad semester in Paris just a week before, on the last night of the Congress I finally got up the courage to have a conversation in French with Philippe Paccard of the Paccard Fonderie des Cloches. The long weekend we spent in Ann Arbor was truly memorable and educational.



Cathy Jordan '03 assists University of Connecticut carillonneur David Maker with an outreach demonstration of change-ringing using a marimba.

From the Other Side

Eric Hayes '05

A few weeks ago, I enjoyed a rare experience: listening to a chimes concert from the ground. Rare, you ask? Well, since becoming a chimesmaster last spring, I haven't been able to resist the temptation to run up the stairs and "crash" a concert every chance I have. It's just more fun to play than listen! However, on this particular Thursday afternoon, walking past McGraw Tower, I decided not to punish my legs any further and instead just headed down the slope. The 1:10 concert was in progress, and I took the opportunity to enjoy the concert "from the other side." With the combination of a beautiful day and the music of the chimes at my back, I couldn't help but smile as I walked along.

Evidently, I wasn't the only one affected. I saw people smiling, singing along with "Imagine" and the "Alma Mater", and looking generally happy. I had forgotten how much the music of the bells can influence people. Who can help but laugh when walking around on Ho Plaza and hearing "Under the Big Top" or "Sabre Dance" while watching the passing circus of Cornellians? And it is hard to resist smiling and singing along with "Here Comes the Sun" on a sunny day. More than once, I have heard friends mention hearing a particular piece on the chimes and feeling uplifted, and every time I feel good knowing that I made their day a little better.

So, my humble suggestion to all chimesmasters, past, present, and future, is to take the opportunity every once in a while to listen to a concert from the ground, and to enjoy the sights and sounds. For me, it was a powerful reminder of the presence of the chimes on campus, and the importance of taking into consideration all of my audience when planning a concert, not just my friends or the visitors at the top. Of course, it is nice to be entertained once in a while, without feeling the pressure to play.

I'm looking forward to the rest of my time as a chimesmaster here at Cornell, and I am having a great time! See you all at the top!



Halloween P.R. Team (from left to right): Cathy Jordan '03, Karen Kamprath '05, and Alan Erickson '03 serenaded Day Hall with the Alma Mater from hidden "bells" within the towers!

Chimesmaster's Corner

Catherine Jordan '03, Head Chimesmaster

This summer and semester have been incredibly busy, packed full of the usual – the seemingly unending wedding and tour requests, the challenge of learning new music, and going to the tower between and after classes to “do homework.” Those between class trips to the tower usually mean you will find another chimesmaster there to procrastinate with! On top of that, we have had plenty of new and exciting happenings! This summer we were lucky to be able to celebrate the weddings of Marisa Piliero LaFalce '96 and Courtney Kimball Zimmerman '01! This fall brought the arrival of our newest little chimesmaster, Fiona Elizabeth Lory-Moran, which prompted one of the happiest evening concerts ever and a chimesmaster road trip to Cayuga Medical Center to congratulate Jen '96, '97 (our Chimes Advisor) and Mark, and to meet little Fiona!

Just recently, Fiona came to her first ever Chimes Halloween Concert, dressed as a peapod – Mark was the pea plant and Jen the watering can. Halloween was once again a tremendous success

this year, complete with cider bubbling with dry ice, candy, cobwebs, and a huge crowd of visitors. The great turnout was partly attracted by the two live clock towers and bell that wandered around campus during the day to advertise! This year we had some exciting additions to our Halloween chimes play list, including a version of the Alma Mater Duets in a minor key. And of course, a group of tubas skillfully made their way up the spiral staircase to play a concert on the belfry after the clock struck 13! One visitor described the Halloween concert best, “this is way cool!”

Being head chimesmaster has given me an incredibly different perspective on the chimes and what we represent to the campus. I now have an enormous respect for all of the head chimesmasters who have come before me; they held this sometimes-challenging position with so much poise and organization. You are all incredible! It has also meant more communication with the world outside of the tower. We are not just musicians who play a unique instrument, but we are also a tourist destination, a public symbol, a Cornell tradition, an annoyance (to some), and to many, a smile brought to their face when they hear a favorite piece playing on their way to class in the morning or home from work in the evening. It is a big responsibility, and I believe we handle it well. Good work, team!



Halloween '02: Cathy Jordan '03, Karen Kamprath '05, Marisa LaFalce '96, Melody Hung '03, Alan Erickson '03, Eric Hayes '05, missing: Jen Lory-Moran '96, '97, and Lisa Ngai '05. Yes! Melody played with the pumpkin on her head!

...Alumni Notes

We were delighted to see **Gloria Lee (GL) '99** visit the tower during Commencement weekend in May. She is currently a second year law student at Syracuse, and just happened to take a labor law class from another Chimes alumnus, Professor **Robert Rabin (RJR) '61!** Now that we know that both Gloria and Robert are just an hour away, we hope they will come and visit again soon!

Congratulations to **Courtney Kimball (CMK) '01** and Matt Zimmerman '01, '02 who were married on July 5 on the terrace next to McGraw Tower. The Cornell News staff took a picture of the Cornellians' ceremony for the weekly Chronicle newspaper, visit www.news.cornell.edu/Chronicle/Chronicle.html and download the .pdf of the July 25, 2002 issue to see a picture. Courtney and her new husband are enjoying Air Force life in Abilene Texas and expect to be deployed overseas at some point in the coming year. She hopes to stay long enough to try the local carillon, a 35-bell instrument at McMurry University in Abilene. She also writes "I've been asked to give piano lessons to a couple of families... a daunting task when one does not own her own piano -I guess I will be the traveling piano teacher! We are looking for a piano and have been checking the local classifieds for a used-but-loved upright or spinet."

Lauren Marino (LFM) '02 writes: "In mid-October, I moved to Rochester where I am working at Manning & Napier Advisors. I

have noticed two churches that look like they have a chime, which I will have to investigate on my time off. I also hope to see (and learn to play) the University of Rochester carillon." Perhaps there are some Chimes alumni that can provide some tips on carillons or chimes in that area?

George Ubogy (GAU) '58 has just returned from a Cornell Adult University cruise along the Vietnamese coast and extension to Angkor Wat in Cambodia. He found no evidence of bell towers or bell ringing having survived what is known there as the "American War". George wrote that some of the local Vietnamese musical instruments are marvelous. Although usually not a fan of group tours, he found that Cornell opens doors to experiences that one would not be able to have when traveling as an individual tourist.

Congratulations to Mark and **Jennifer Lory-Moran (JCLM) '96, '97** on the birth of their daughter Fiona Elizabeth in September! Fiona accompanied her mom in her first Chimes concert (an "Evening Song with Descant") at just barely a month old, and is reported to have slept through the whole experience! We imagine she will be ready to play the "Rag" as soon as she can reach the levers and pedals!

Good wishes also go out to **Phyllis McClelland (PDM) '43** who is currently undergoing radiation therapy; we hope to see you climbing McGraw Tower's 161-steps again soon!

We have had many Chimes alumni visit McGraw Tower in the last few months. **Erwin Chan (EC) '00** has made several trips up to campus from Philadelphia where he is pursuing his PhD. During his most recent visit, over Homecoming weekend, Erwin and **Lauren Marino '02**, also visiting for the weekend, debuted his newest Chimes arrangement of Beethoven's 5th -it was quite impressive! **Keith Jenkins (KGJ) '93** returned to Ithaca in May and again for the Friends of the Library Book Sale in October. Keith is in the second year of his masters program in Library Science. **Amy Hirschfeld (AH) '92** and **Nancy Sexton (NLS) '82, '86** both visited the tower during Reunion weekend in June. **Judy Ogden (JSO) '71, '75, '77** made a couple of visits to McGraw Tower while in Ithaca to drop off and pick up her son who attended the 6-week Cornell Summer College. **Dina Friedman (DCF) '78** and her family stopped by the tower for a visit on a family vacation in July. Most recently, **Elaina Stergiades (ES) '93** visited us and spent some time using the practice stand. Recent graduate **Waitz Ngan (WTN) '02** and her parents also made sure to crash a couple of concerts on a recent trip through Ithaca!

Speaking of Waitz, her picture at the playing stand is featured in the 2003 calendar produced by University Photography (this is the full color picture calendar). The Chimes have

Spotlight on the Chimes Advisory Council

been in the news in other ways too: they were the feature in the Cornelliana section of the May/June issue of *Cornell Alumni Magazine*. And in July, the Rochester, New York *Democrat and Chronicle* wrote a wonderful (and accurate) article about **Karen Kamprath (KMK) '05** and the Cornell Chimes. Please keep in touch, we love to hear from all of our alumni!

Stay Connected with Alumni Throughout the Year...by joining the chimes alumni email list-serve!

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

This is a wonderful way to stay connected to the Chimes community as people can read discussions among chimesmasters and need only join in if they wish. If you are interested in subscribing, or have additional questions about this list, email Alan Erickson at are4@cornell.edu.

The Chimes Advisory Council convened the first weekend in May for the spring meeting. It was the first meeting assembled under the new subcommittee structure. Current and alumni Chimesmasters each participated in two of four subcommittees to discuss: Outreach to Other Chimes, Visitor Experience, Outreach to Cornell, and Alumni and Fundraising Relations. The meeting was a productive one, as committees began to define their mission as well as develop preliminary action plans. Committee follow-up continued through the summer and early fall, and the November 16 meeting will prove to be busy with a full meeting agenda. Just a few of the subcommittee items include:

- ♪ Installing a recording system for chimesmasters to record themselves playing the bells. Key issues include: ease of use, permanent microphones, convenient medium for the recorded material, and an equalizer to give the bells alternative perspectives, such as hearing them from the ground. Information about recording systems for other chimes and from local sound engineers is being collected for review and discussion at the fall meeting, so that exact specifications can be defined.
- ♪ Reviewing and updating the content of the museums (1st and 6th floors). Perhaps including video for those who cannot climb the tower. Due to an unfortunate water leak in October, the current museum sustained some water damage (no damage to original documents, all were replicas). This has increased the urgency and priority level of a redesign for the Chimes program. A curator from the Johnson Museum of Art has agreed to provide preliminary guidance.
- ♪ Continue to encourage and expand outreach and engagement of the Cornell Community and the Chimes, through concert topicality. Chimesmasters often play music relevant to the birth date of a composer, holiday, etc. but explore the possibility of publicizing these concerts to the community and to groups with an interest in that specific program, similar to the Halloween, Valentines Day, and Sage Chapel Christmas programs.
- ♪ The Outreach to Other Chimes subcommittee is emerging with three different components that are being explored and defined, all with the ultimate goal of how Cornell's premier instrument can form a leadership role, as well as, linkages to other bell instruments. Joe Connors has done extensive chimes research, creating a website www.AllChimes.com and will be speaking at the November meeting.

To learn more about the Chimes Advisory Council or to become involved, contact the Cornell Chimes office.

**“I sleep at night and think I *dream*
remembered chimes”**

Marisa LaFalce '96

Not long ago one of the current Chimesmasters emailed the others to share a dream...“I had a dream last night that there was a really nice dorm room on campus somewhere that contains a practice stand and the room usually goes only to chimesmasters. Wouldn't it be nice if we each got our own personal practice stand?”

The idea of having a practice stand in your room or apartment that didn't require signing up for a time, or trudging through the cold to get to, certainly has its appeal. But beyond the luxury and convenience of having the plush “chimesmaster room” on campus, it got me thinking, are bell and tower dreams common for chimesmasters? Do all bell fans have a memorable chime or tower dream that they can recall? I began to ask other chimesmasters (both current and alumni) if they had any memorable bell or tower dreams. Below are a few that they shared with me. Please note the dreamers will remain anonymous, in case you choose to psychoanalyze their dreams' content!

“I've had a strange chimes dream that the chimes were on the ground level in this dainty little store in Germany and I was playing them while people were coming into the store.”

“I dreamt that they moved the bells up to the top of a fancy hotel with a glass elevator!” *Perhaps this reflects that subconscious desire to see an elevator in the tower?*

And what is it about the “Rag” that gets to our nerves, not just for learning compets?

“The summer after I became a chimesmaster I dreamt that when I came back after the summer holidays I had completely forgotten how to play the ‘Rag’.”

“I was trying to learn a new chime piece, and was having trouble because it was almost identical to the ‘Rag’, but slightly different. The weird part was that I was practicing not on a

chimes stand, but on clothing in a closet. Instead of pushing levers, I was pushing the clothes on their hangers. Each hanger represented a lever, and swung when I pushed it. Figure that one out!”

Performance anxieties and overcoming barriers to play the bells also seem to be a trend! Perhaps that shows the conscientiousness of this group!

“Those I do remember have been strange, with me trying to play the bells and there being various obstacles. For example, I recall dreams in which I arrived at the bell tower for a concert, only to discover there were no stairs. I did not play those concerts! In other cases, I started up the stairs, but found that one or two flights of stairs were missing so I could not continue up! Another variation is that the way to the playing level was not through the tower, but instead was a maze-like route through Uris Library, involving many rooms and floors, and I couldn't find the way.”

“The most interesting chimes dream was when I came upstairs with a fellow Chimesmaster and we wanted to play a duet, but all of the sudden there were three consoles, all of them were very old, and we weren't sure which was hooked up to the bells!”

“I've been back at school as a student for weeks, and I've heard many chimes concerts, but I haven't yet signed up to have my own regular slot and haven't even played a concert yet, unbelievable!”

“It's almost time to play my concert, I'm trying to get to the tower, but people are stopping me to talk. I keep trying to get away, but eventually it's too late. Then there are dreams where the playing stand and bells are located somewhere else than the tower, or in some other tower. And dreams where I make it to the playing stand but can't find any music. Strange part of it all is that I don't believe I ever missed a concert in real life.”

Sometimes those tower dreams can be scary!

“I dreamed last night that our tower fell down.

Actually, it sort of broke off about a third of the way up. It was one of the worst dreams I've ever had. In the dream I was screaming at the top of my lungs.... I will have to wait until my roommate wakes up and see if I said anything out loud!"

"In my latest dream, I was very nervous about playing anything because of all of the new levers (at least my dreams include the renovation) - a feeling not too far from real life. However, the tower itself was totally different. For one thing, the floor of each level was only peripheral - that is, inside, there were planks set around the circumference of each level, but there were huge gaping holes in the center, such that if you didn't watch your step, you could fall all the way to the bottom of the tower."

"My most memorable chimes dream was one where I had to get up and down the tower but the stairs between the levels were missing, so I had to climb from platform to platform. It was scary!"

This dream must be from a sleep deprived student!
"We had a big Starbucks coffee dispenser machine in Sage Chapel as a fundraiser, but people kept on stealing the coffee and Marisa got very upset about this. I got to guard the coffee machine while I did homework and then I got hungry and opened a bag of coffee and found out that the reason people were stealing the coffee was because it was really chocolate covered espresso beans - no wonder Starbucks coffee is so good!"

Maybe the "chimesmaster dorm room" isn't such an unusual idea!
"There were chimesmasters living in the tower (perhaps a secret wish on my part). There were three to four bedrooms, a dining room with beautiful furniture, and a living room (don't remember seeing a kitchen) - all spread out over two levels. How great it would be to literally roll out of bed at 7:40 in the morning to play a concert (though I must say I really did enjoy some of those serene treks across the Arts Quad in the middle of the winter, with no one about

but me and the snow - truly)! We were all playing a concert together, as is so often the case nowadays."

And finally, the most famous of all chimes dreams, by Albert W. Smith, Class of 1878:

The Hill

I wake at night and think I hear
Remembered chimes,
And mem'ry brings in visions clear
Enchanted times
Beneath green elms with branches bowed
In springtime suns,
Or touching elbows in a crowd,
Of eager ones;
Again I'm hurrying past the towers,
Or with the teams,
Or spending precious idling hours
In golden dreams.

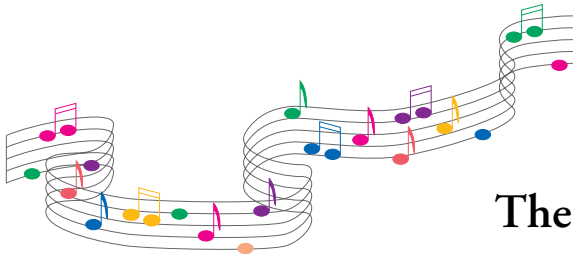
We wish you sweet dreams!

NEW! Chimes Online Giving Form

Cornell Chimes alumni and friends can now make their gift to the Cornell Chimes general fund, or the Monica Novakovic Chimes Program Endowment online, using the University's secure server.

To make a gift, or for additional information, simply go to www.chimes.cornell.edu and click on Support the Chimes. You will be guided through the steps for making your gift online using your credit card. If you prefer to make a gift by check, the site also provides an online form that will generate a receipt for you to print out and mail in with your check to make the process even easier.

For additional information on the Cornell Chimes online giving form, or various modes of giving, contact Marisa LaFalce at 607-255-2373 or mfp1@cornell.edu.

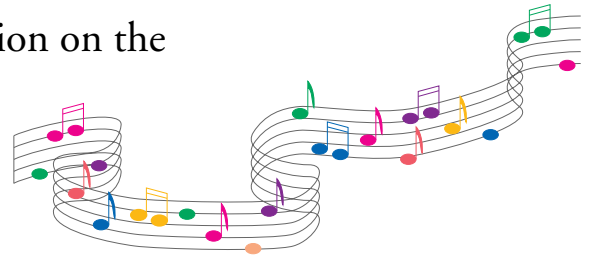


**Coming Soon...the newest compact disk in
the Cornell Chimes collection!**

The Cornell Chimes: *Far Above Cayuga's Waters*

In 1999, the Cornell Chimes and McGraw Tower underwent a historic restoration and the bells were tuned together for the first time in their history. This compact disk, recorded in the spring of 2002, is the first full-length recording for distribution since the bells were tuned. Musical features include Cornell songs, classical favorites, Chimesmaster original compositions, and more!

Please visit our website often for updated information on the release of this beautiful new recording, or for specific questions, please contact the Cornell Chimes office.



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