



THE CORNELL
CHIMES
NEWSLETTER

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Marisa Piliero '96, Editor

Monica Novakovic Chimes Program Endowment Established

Marisa Piliero '96

We are pleased to announce that the Novakovic family has generously provided an opportunity to preserve and enhance the Cornell Chimes program for the next one-hundred years and beyond. Professor Andrew Novakovic and children, Lindsey and Steven, have established the Monica Novakovic Chimes Program Endowment, named for the first Cornell Chimes Assistant, the late Monica Rejzer Novakovic.

The endowment was created to "assist in costs associated with the development of music for the Chimes, the promotion and celebration of the Chimes as an instrument and symbol of Cornell, and other such activities and materials that serve to enrich the Cornell experience for the rest of us. Included in this would be the cost of travel for Chimesmasters and the Chimes Advisor to meetings, conferences, and or other sites for the purpose of professional development as related to their duties with the Chimes." With this initial gift and with the future growth of this endowment, we hope to insure, in perpetuity, the development and notoriety of the Cornell Chimes.

It is appropriate that Monica's instrumental work enhancing the Chimes program, and gaining recognition for the Chimes and the Chimesmasters will be recognized through this named gift. Monica Novakovic was the first Chimes Assistant from 1988 to 1995, and through her love and devotion for the Chimes and Chimesmasters, she often went well beyond the scope of her duties to help benefit the program. She was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the Chimes Renovation project, coordination of the first-ever Chimesmaster Reunion, production of the Cornell Chimes book, enhancing the Chimes Newsletter and connecting with Chimesmaster Alumni.

Many fondly remember Monica sitting at a card table in front of the tower, during Reunion weekends and other University events, selling books, T-shirts, and tapes to benefit the program. In 1995, she left the Chimes for another position on the Cornell campus, working



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with the Health Education division of Gannett: Cornell University Health Services. Monica passed away in the summer of 1998 after battling breast cancer; her husband Andrew and their two children, Lindsey and Steven survive her.

Monica’s husband Andrew reflected on her contributions to the Chimes. “Monica was able to find excitement in even the most ordinary of tasks, she was able to dream and to envision many wonderful things happen.” In 2001, as we prepare for the second-ever Chimesmaster Reunion, with a newly restored tower, and an expanded (and tuned) set of bells, we hope that through the growth and nourishment of this endowment, we can perpetuate those dreams for an enhanced program for year’s to come.

We invite all of you to join us for a celebration recognizing Monica’s devotion to the Chimes, and this newly created endowment during the Chimesmasters’ Reunion in July. If you would like to make a gift to the Monica Novakovic Chimes Program Endowment, see the pledge card on page 7 or contact Marisa Piliero at (607) 255-2373.

What’s New in the Tower?

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

Since the last newsletter, the Chimesmasters have been keeping busy playing for many special events as well as coaching compets in the competition.

On December 3 and 4, the Chimesmasters played for the annual Sage Chapel Christmas program. Then, on Christmas Eve, **Bob Feldman ’66, PhD ’75** made a guest appearance to play for the service held in Sage Chapel that night by the Unitarian Church. **Lauren Marino ’02** played at midnight on New Year’s Eve to welcome 2001.



This year we held our first Valentine’s Day Open House, and we think it may be the beginning of a wonderful tradition! On the evening of February 14th, the tower was open for an hour as the Chimesmasters played love songs and handed out chocolate kisses. Visitors requested their favorite songs and enjoyed the starry view.

The highlight for me this semester was hosting a workshop for the Chimesmasters on how to be a coach during the competition. This year four of our seven Chimesmasters are new and it is the first time they have participated in the competition as a coach. In February we held a workshop, which everyone was able to attend. We discussed the logistics of the competition and reflected on what we remembered from our own experiences as compets. We reviewed all of the different areas of playing that need to be addressed with compets – dynamics, footwork, chordwork, music selection, visitor interaction, musicality, and more.

While we have not played for any weddings yet this semester, the season is about to begin, and requests for wedding concerts have been pouring in. School groups have been scheduling tours of the tower this month, and we have already been asked to give tours during New Student Orientation in August. We will be playing for Commencement in May and Reunion in June. But what I’m looking forward to the most is the upcoming Chimesmasters’ Reunion in July. I can’t wait to meet Chimesmasters that I’ve only ever heard about, and I’m looking forward to being reunited with people I played with years ago. The more chimesmasters that come, the better it will be – I hope to see you there!

Tower Perspectives

With the Chimes competition in progress, the current Chimesmasters have been reflecting on what being a chimesmaster means to them. Two of the current Chimesmasters have shared their thoughts on being part of the Cornell Chimes tradition...

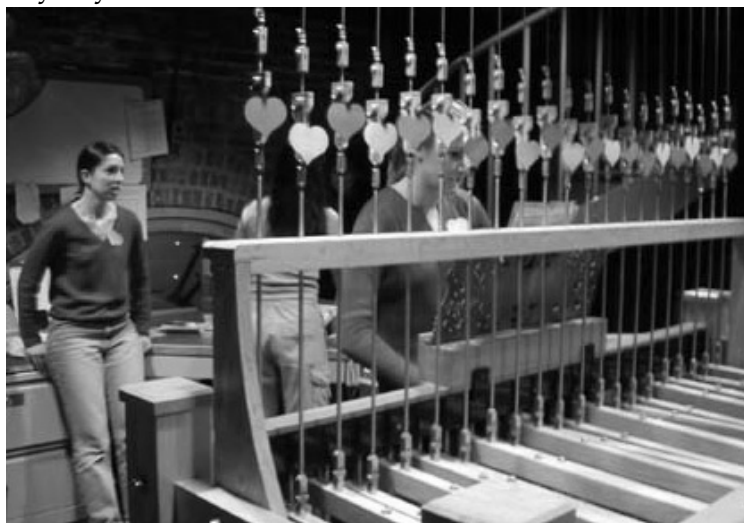
I am sure that many of us, at one time or another, have been asked by friends or family what it is like being a chimesmaster, playing for an audience of thousands. They can understand and appreciate that we are lovers of music, and that we enjoy setting the mood that carries students to their classes. But only a chimesmaster knows the true exhilaration of putting one's entire body into a piece of music, expressing dynamic feeling to the world. Only a chimesmaster can understand the desire to run to the third floor practice room after an exam to let off steam or to want to climb the 161 stairs at 10:30pm to play an impromptu concert lasting until midnight.

I'm sure many passersby were surprised one night last May to hear the Chimes ring out long after the evening concert was over. It was the evening after the May 2000 Chimes Advisory Council meeting, and five enthusiastic chimesmasters could not wait until morning to play. Having just come from a marvelous dinner with the alumni, we were energized to ring the bells. We climbed up the steps and began to play at 10:30 p.m.

"Why," someone might ask, "at 10:30 at night, would you want to climb all the way to the top of the tower just to play the chimes?" To be honest, I can't explain why. Maybe it is the awesome feeling of standing at the top of the tower, creating music for the entire campus to hear. Or the fun we Chimesmasters have dancing together to "Let's Go Fly a Kite" or decorating the tower for Halloween. As Chimesmasters, we hold a tremendous, and in a way, secret, responsibility to the Cornell campus. Whether it is 7:45, 1:10, 6:00, or 10:30, the allure of the chimes never changes.

-Liz Wallis '02 (ERW)

Imagine you're visiting McGraw Tower for the first time and you have no idea what to expect. You get to the top and finally discover the source of the breathtaking music you so often have enjoyed from afar - a student (or math teacher as the case may be) jumping up and down on one foot, wiggling, singing, grinning uncontrollably, counting out loud and bobbing her head as she plays. What's your first thought? As a good friend of mine put it best, "you chimesmasters are a different breed..." This is why we often have to subdue our enthusiasm. As much fun as it is to jump around, most of us like to maintain the reputation that we are at least somewhat sane. Which is why playing duets with another chimesmaster is so wonderful - a chance for us to really let loose. Whether it's head banging to the last few notes of "Hoedown," or bouncing through part of "The Nutcracker," playing duets is perhaps the most fun I've had here on campus -it beats a fraternity party any day.



Liz Wallis '02 (left) and Lauren Marino '02 perform on a festively decorated playing console for the 1st annual Valentine's Day Concert

The amazing thing is the communication you have with the person you're playing with - both players somehow knowing where to crescendo or just how much to slow down, without ever speaking. Blushing after a piece doesn't quite go as planned (it does not help when the page you need for a repeat falls halfway down the stairs) is almost as great as the feeling of satisfaction from knowing you have made beautiful music together. It's true - we (chimesmasters) certainly are a different breed, and that's what makes me so happy to be part of the oldest musical tradition on campus. By the way, you're all invited to crash my Sunday noon concert and play the Alma Duets - come on, it'll be a great time - I'll even let you play the top part!

- Cathy Jordan '03 (CEJ)



Satisfy your longing for the bells...with a book or CD!

“Remembered Chimes,”
recorded by
the Chimesmasters in the
spring of 1998

The Cornell Chimes,
by Ed McKeown

This book is filled with
history, lore, and photographs
of the chimes, chimesmasters,
and the tower.

CDs and books are available
through the
Cornell Campus Store.

Book	\$24.95
CD	\$15.00

Tax & shipping not included.

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Washington D.C. Alumni Event
Alumni Chimesmasters, Cornell staff and friends of the Chimes all gathered together for dinner one December evening, last year. The gathering, which included a reception and dinner at the Army and Navy Club in Washington D.C., provided an opportunity for old friends to reconnect and new friendships to be formed. Attendees included **Joe Dalaker '95** and his fiancée Helen Starkweather, **Bruce Edwards '78**, **Rick Glassco '76**, Linda Johnson '60, MS'63, Director of the Cornell in Washington Program, **Esther Koblenz '72** and her husband Ron Farias, **Dick Lee '41** and his wife Laurie, **Mike Mage '55** and his wife Rose '56, **Lane McClelland '70**, MBA '73, **JD '74**, Neil '48 and Eleanor '49 Munch, Marisa Piliero '96, Student & Academic Services, **Allegra Schafer '99**, and David Yeh, Assistant Vice President for Student & Academic Services. The evening, which included the recounting of many stories about Cornell and the Chimes was delightful. With so many alumni chimesmasters in the area, we hope to make the gathering an annual tradition, and that are friends who were unable to join us, will be able to attend in the future.

Bob Feldman '66, PhD '75 (RLF) and his wife Sue are doing well in Framingham, Massachusetts. He is enjoying his position and he has found a 12-bell chime to play once a month. He reports that the Chime could use some work- perhaps it is time to give Meeks and Watson a call?

Grace Jean '00 (GVJ) Reports that they are keeping her very busy in NYC at Columbia Journalism School. She recently completed her master's project, and has been enjoying her classes, including one taught by **Al Gore!** “Class has been fun- we've had Rupert Murdoch, Alan Greenspan and David Letterman all come in and speak to us. My national affairs class will be traveling down to D.C. later this month and we have a trip up the Hudson River planned with Robert Kennedy, Jr.” With all the activity she can't believe that graduation is May 16th, and it is already time to look for a job!

The Chimesmasters have been thrilled to continue receiving new arrangements from **Keith Jenkins '93 (KGJ)**, even though he is now living in Bangladesh. Through the wonders of technology, Keith has e-mailed duet arrangements of Bach's “Prelude No. 5” and Debussy's “Ballet” from the Petite Suite. Keith arranges the music using the Overture computer program and the Chimesmasters are then able to print it out and play it.

Connie (Smatlak) VanHoesel '93 (CRSVH) was in town the weekend of March 3-4 to attend the Alumni Leadership Conference, a gathering of Cornell alumni who brainstorm about new ways to recruit new members to their local alumni groups/organizations. While back she crashed an evening concert, and hopes to do so again next month. “I will be popping back into town...the weekend of May 12-13, to take

Cornell Chimesmasters' Reunion

July 27-29, 2001

“Collectively, the chimesmasters have watched Cornell evolve, stone by stone, from a single building in a muddy nineteenth-century pasture to one of the world’s most respected centers of learning. And through all the growth and construction and change they’ve played their music -- sending the melodies of the Cornell bells ringing out across the campus and throughout the Ithaca community.”



--The Cornell Chimes, by Ed McKeown

Come share your stories about the chimes and Cornell. Meet people who played the chimes 40 years before you did. Meet people who played the chimes 40 years *after* you did. Meet the men and women who play the chimes today. This is a chance to reconnect with the chimesmasters you played with and an opportunity to see how the tower has changed since then. You are an important part of the chimes tradition, and we hope to see you in Ithaca for the Cornell Chimesmasters' Reunion!

In a few weeks, you will receive a registration packet for the Chimes Reunion in the mail. Meanwhile, details regarding the Reunion will be updated on the Chimes website at www.chimes.cornell.edu, as they become available. Please check it often.

Have you made your room reservations yet?

Blocks of 20 rooms have been reserved at each of the following locations for the nights of Friday, July 27 and Saturday, July 28. Please specify “Chimes Reunion” when making reservations to qualify for these special rates.

Best Western University Inn

1020 Ellis Hollow Road, Ithaca
\$79 single/\$89 double
(607) 272-6100

Cornell Dorms

Campus
Approx. \$30-45/night
(607) 255-2373
Call for details/housing form

Statler Hotel

Campus
\$110 single/\$120 double
(607) 257-2500



an exam again at my alma mater! It's a chance to take a certification exam in "elementary" Dutch — I married a Dutchman — and I've been studying Dutch a couple of years now. It's fun to live only two hours away from Ithaca and to be able to make trips back to the "Hill" relatively frequently."

Daniel Zlatin MS '80 and Maura Flatley have returned to Canada, after spending more than a year working in the United Kingdom. "We've successfully managed to return to a place that has *real* weather-the snow is melting now, and we've seen our first robins. It was really odd to be walking around the neighborhood on New Year's Day and seeing flowers in bloom. Not typical Ottawa (nor Ithaca, for that matter!) weather." He is looking forward to coming to the Chimesmaster's Reunion in July, now that he's back on the same continent.



"It is necessary to give one caution most strongly to ambitious chime-cultivators. Avoid 'chords,' or two notes sounded (professedly) at once. At Croydon they thought they knew better, and a more horrible performance I never heard from the rudest old-fashioned chime barrel of 200 years ago. I believe the chords have since been abolished."

- Sir Edmund Beckett,
"Clocks and Watches and Bells"
published 1883



Chimesmaster's Corner...the 2001 Competition Courtney Kimball '01, Head Chimesmaster

Forty-five chimesmaster hopefuls began the annual Cornell Chimes competition on February 5th this year. Sounds of the Cornell songs filled the tower with the ring of the metal tubes on the practice stand and the thuds of silent practice on the main console as compets learned the (Jennie McGraw) Rag, Alma Mater, and Evening Song during the first four weeks of the competition. Fourteen compets auditioned for second-round slots on March 3rd, and seven of them were selected to continue. Now, these compets are performing two concerts a week under the watchful eyes and helpful advice of the current Chimesmasters. Beginning April 9th, compets will act as quasi-chimesmasters for two weeks, giving solo concerts while the Chimesmasters listen from below to select the lucky few who will become part of Cornell's oldest tradition.

The Chimes Advisor and Head Chimesmaster collaborate to schedule and fine-tune the details of the competition. The Head Chimesmaster runs the competition from start to finish, and all of the Chimesmasters act as coaches for the compets. As Head Chimesmaster this year, I was excited to be in charge of bringing in a whole new crop of chimesmaster hopefuls. During the first round, it was exciting to watch so many compets learn to play the chimes. Each week I posted advice, suggestions, and other feedback regarding what I had heard from the practice room and seen on the main console.

It was also my job to audition the compets in their quest to reach the second round. The auditions are done silently on the main console. The compets were pretty nervous, and I tried not to let on that I was a bit nervous too. I told one compet in an attempt to get him to relax; "I've never been on this side of the clipboard, so this is new for me too!" Overall, I was very impressed with the abilities and potential of the compets. It was hard to notify the ones who did not make it to the second round, but it was also very exciting

to select the group from which our new chimesmasters would come!

All of the Chimesmasters are enjoying coaching the compets. Coaching gives a new perspective of the chimes – you realize how much of playing is a science, and how much is an art. The final two-weeks of judged rounds have now begun, and I remember from last year how much fun it was to hear how the compets had improved. Many of them gave delightful and enjoyable concerts. The competition, although stressful and time-consuming for the compets, is an exciting time for the Chimesmasters as we encourage the compets – we look forward to adding to our family in just a few short weeks!



2000-2001 Cornell Chimesmasters (left to right): Liz Wallis '02, Lauren Marino '02, Waitz Ngan '02, Victor Lin '01, Jennifer Lory-Moran '96 MAT '97, Courtney Kimball '01, Cathy Jordan '03-who will be next?

Please check our website at www.chimes.cornell.edu soon, for a list of our newest Chimesmasters!

Did you know that your annual support for Cornell University can be directed to the Chimes?

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT!

Are you returning to campus for Alumni Reunion Weekend June 7-10?
If yes, please visit us in the tower, we look forward to seeing you!

Concerts-Friday at 8:45 A.M., 12:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M.
Saturday at 10:40 A.M., 12:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M.
Sunday at 10:40 A.M. and 12:00 P.M.

Open House-The Chimesmasters will be hosting their annual McGraw Tower open house on Saturday from 12:00-2:00 P.M. Refreshments will be served for those who climb all 161 steps!

For additional information, contact the Chimesmasters by phone 255-5350, email chimes@cornell.edu or visit us online at www.chimes.cornell.edu.



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