

# Cornell University The Cornell Chimes

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Newsletter of the Cornell Chimesmasters and McGraw Tower

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## The Chimesmasters Take Manhattan!

Lisa Passmore '10

Last December the current chimesmasters were given the chance to visit (and play!) two sets of bells in New York City. Our journey began at Baker flagpole at an extra chilly 5am. We filled our four-and-a-half-hour drive to the city with intermittent periods of napping and snacking (the former more than the latter).

When we reached New York, our first stop was the Church of the Holy Trinity ([www.holytrinity-nyc.org/](http://www.holytrinity-nyc.org/)). Although it appeared a humble brick structure from the street, we all soon discovered its immense chapel, complete with beautiful stained glass windows and an organ rising far above our heads.

Our host, Dr. Stephen Hamilton, led us to church with a ring of chairs around what looked remarkably similar to the playing stand we were all 11 levers shorter. Our host gave us a brief introduction to the instrument, warned us about the lowest note of the low C we were all accustomed to) and of the wires connecting clappers that occurred the levers too hastily. We then proceeded to have ourselves an hour-long, of sight-reading and to the feel and techniques associated with a



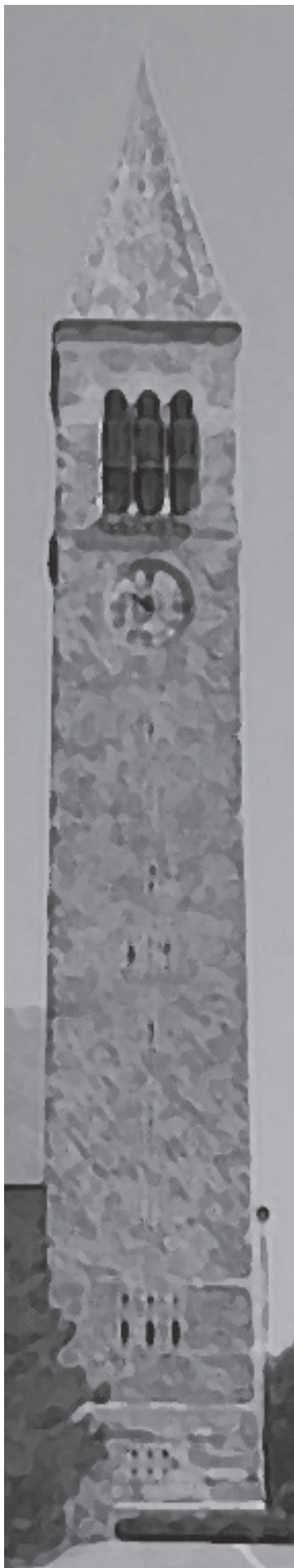
After our concert on the Holy Trinity, we chimesmasters Alan Erickson '03, '58. It was exciting (and slightly surreal) to meet the people behind some of the more well-known arrangements and hear first-hand accounts of how the instrument, the tower, and the traditions had changed over the years.

Lisa Passmore '10 plays a hymn on the 11-bell chime at Church of the Holy Trinity as Kathy Houg '10 looks on.

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the bells at the Church of had brunch with alumni Lauren Marino Casey '02, '04, and George Ubogy

Our next stop took us to the 26-bell carillon at St. Thomas Episcopal Church ([www.saintthomaschurch.org/](http://www.saintthomaschurch.org/)) on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Here we met our host, the church carillonneur, Jeffrey Figley, who took us up a spiraling staircase to the carillon's playing stand. This time there was no sight-read, relaxed concert atmosphere. We were all busy working up the nerve to try our hand at this very foreign instrument and play for a very large crowd on




one of New York's major thoroughfares. The more we tried to calculate the exact number of people potentially listening, the more nervous we became.

My first trial run on the carillon's practice stand didn't go well. The carillon levers were a miniature version of those on the Cornell chimes stand and without the helpful letters indicating what each of the notes were. It was very strange to be sitting while playing, feet dangling a few inches above more unlabelled pedals connected to more notes. It became apparent why carillonneurs play with their fists after one of the levers snapped back up and pinched a few naively outstretched fingers.

***"This trip gave me a taste of the greater context surrounding the Cornell Chimes and the quiet solidarity that seems to exist between the people that play (and love) bell instruments."***

Our practice time was short (there were quite a few of us preparing to play including our alumni) before we climbed a precarious-looking ladder to the real playing stand, suspended on a platform above the practice one. We each performed our pieces, and put on a good twenty-minute show for our unseen audience of thousands. After we had all played, our host, Jeff, casually stepped up and wowed us all with a spectacular sight-reading of the classic Cornell Chimes favorite, "Lament" written by our own R. H. Lee '41.

After the carillon visit we had a few hours on our own to explore the city. When our van pulled up beside Baker Flagpole at 2am, it felt good to be back. When I played my first Cornell Chimes concert the week after the trip to New York, I felt a new appreciation for the instrument I thought I knew so well. Our trip to the city last December assured me that bell instruments don't exist in a vacuum. This trip gave me a taste of the greater context surrounding the Cornell Chimes and the quiet solidarity that seems to exist between the people that play (and love) bell instruments. 




Student chimesmasters doze on the van ride to New York City after a pre-dawn departure.

### **Providing for the Future – Establishing an Unrestricted Program Endowment** Allegra (Schafer) Marcell '99, Council Co-Chair

During the Fall 2008 Chimes Advisory Council meeting, the council began discussions about establishing a new endowment to support the Cornell Chimes. The program is funded through four mechanisms: existing endowments which support some facility and program expenses; annual giving; sales revenue from CDs and other chimes merchandise; and university allocation. In addition to these existing sources of funding, the council supports the establishment of an *unrestricted* Cornell Chimes endowment to make the chimes program fully self-sustaining. This would provide a source of support for the specific needs of the program into the future.

Each of the existing types of support has unique attributes. The current endowments for program and facilities were defined by their donors with specific goals in mind, and must be spent according to those original agreements. Annual giving is *essential* to the continuity of the chimes program and related activities, particularly in difficult economic times. Chimes merchandise sales are a small but important source of revenue. At the University level, the chimes program receives funding and support as a department in the same sense as, for example, an academic department. In particular, the chimes are not a student organization – the program is part of the operating budget of the University. In addition to these various sources of support, each with their own particular focus, the creation of an unrestricted endowment would provide a broad, stable framework of support and ensure the longevity of the Cornell Chimes.

Cornell University would assist us in facilitating the establishment of such an endowment, and the University would manage the endowment with the legal responsibility of ensuring that revenue is dedicated solely to the chimes program. Although the program is strong and stable, the need for the long-term support that an unrestricted endowment would provide is especially apparent in this period of economic uncertainty.

Your comments and questions about funding of the chimes program are welcome. Please feel free to send an email to [chimes@cornell.edu](mailto:chimes@cornell.edu). 



The Cornell Chimes Newsletter is published twice per year by the Cornell Chimes. Edited by Marisa LaFalce '96.

Please contact us with your comments and feedback or if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

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## Cornell Campanology

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

As I write this, we are nearing the end of our spring chimes competition. For the last four weeks, I have served as coach to one of the competes. I have tried to teach her as much as I can about the unique art of chimes playing. I have watched her struggle to learn the finesse of striking a note delicately and still having it sound, seen her attempts at bringing out the melody without having it drowned out by the notes she plays with her left foot, and heard of her difficulty overcoming years of piano training to play an instrument where the sound doesn't stop just because you let go of the note. We've all been there. (Many of us still are there!)

Watching my compet learn to balance melody and accompaniment brings me back to our discussions around the relative weights of bells. This is something that all chimesmasters consider as they play. It's something we will always need to adjust for, and something that really does get easier with practice. I've learned the feel of our particular instrument and which notes try to ring out louder than I would like. I try to make the melody sing out wherever it may be located in the range of notes we have. It is interesting to see the mathematics of what we are working against, however.

The general rule of thumb is that ascending four semitones (a major third) halves the bell weight. That was something I needed to see to fully grasp, so I made this graph of the weights of our bells. I found the weights of the different bells in a pamphlet issued at the Rededication of the Chimes in 1999. (For me the graph certainly makes the desired point. The next time I write an arrangement and find myself putting the melody on the high G and A, I'll certainly think hard before adding an accompanying "bong" or two on the low C bell...)

The math teacher in me had to leave an empty space in the graph for our missing low C#. It gives a more accurate presentation of the number of semitones between notes. It may reassure some chimes fans to learn that many otherwise chromatic carillons are missing the low C#, and often D# as well. For many instruments, the reason is financial. In a four-octave carillon, weighing approximately 30,000 pounds, leaving out those two notes

can save 20% of the bell bronze and thus 20% of the cost! Apparently, the debate over whether those two notes are worth the investment is centuries old.


In 1678, renowned bell maker Pieter Hemony published a pamphlet entitled "De On-Noodsaakelijkheid van Cis en Dis in de Bassen der Klokken. Vertoont uyt verscheyde advysen van ervaren organisten ende klokken-speelders" ("The Uselessness of C sharp and D sharp in the Bass of Carillons. Shown by various opinions of skillful organists and carillonners.") Within the pamphlet are these (now translated) verses by Dirck Scholl of Delft, directed against Quiryn van Blankenburgh, official carillonner of the Hague, who had strongly argued that C sharp [Cis] and D sharp [Dis] were necessary. I thought the verses might be amusing to include here:

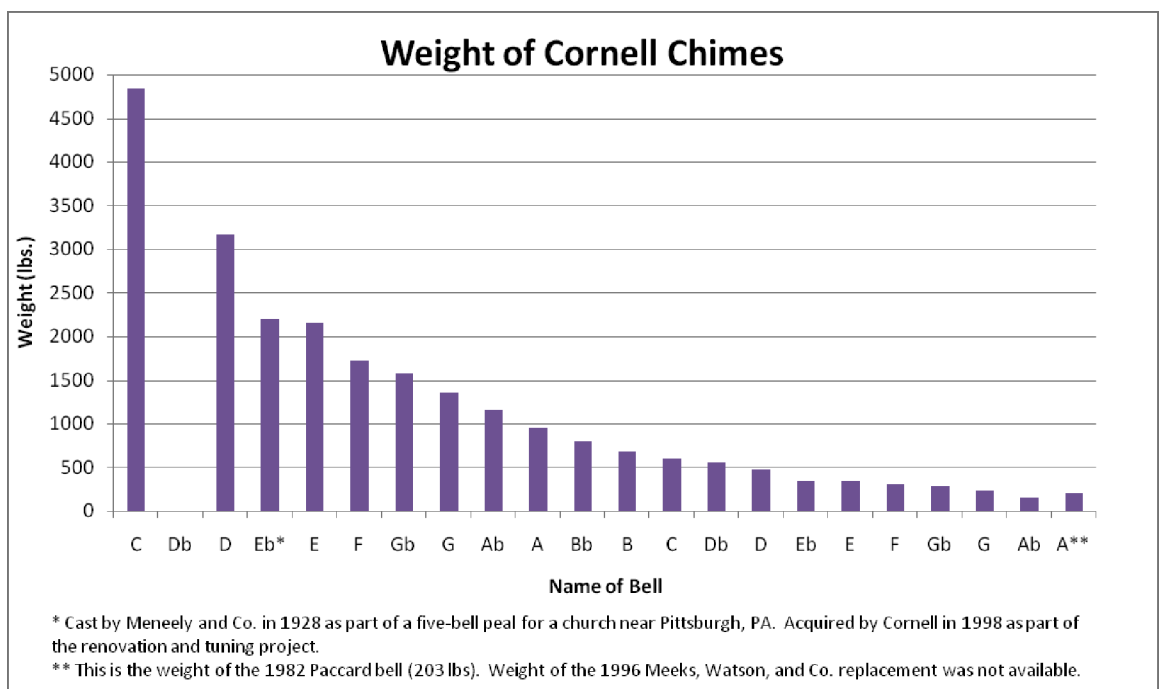
*Those bells Cis and Dis of old Gouda's big Chime,  
In truth were they bought to make melody fine?  
Quirinus says: Yes, that their music is rare.  
To us it were well had they never hung there;*

*The city was cheated and wrongly induced  
To purchase what scarcely could ever be used.  
Each stroke of these bells costs a pound, so 'tis said;  
Pretending they're living, in fact they are dead!*

### Sources

Lehr, Andre. 2005. Campanology Textbook. *Bulletin of the Guild of Carillonners in North America*: 54. *Rededication of the Cornell Chimes: November 6, 1999*. Cornell University, 1999.

Rice, William Gorham. 1914. *Carillons of Belgium and Holland: Tower Music in the Low Countries*. New York: John Lane Company. 





## Alumni Notes

We are pleased to begin this edition of Alumni Notes with some celebrations!

“My husband, Arik, and I met Israeli folk dancing in 2007 and were happy to celebrate with our families and friends at our wedding celebration on January 18,” writes **Allegra (Schafer) Marcel ‘99**. “I’m now living a stones-throw away from the Johns Hopkins undergraduate campus in Baltimore and I am close enough to a bell tower to hear bells but am still trying to track down their exact location. I’ll celebrate 10 years as a Cornell alumna this year and hope to make it up to Ithaca for Reunion this summer!”

Congratulations also go out to **Keith Jenkins ‘93** and his wife Stephanie Ortolano ‘98 who welcomed the birth of their Josephine Ray Jenkins-Ortolano in December. Keith writes, “She hasn’t yet made it to the tower, but is looking forward to hearing some new chimes compositions (works in progress...) which her Papa is writing in her honor.”


Cheers to **Lauren (Marino) Casey ‘02** who is enjoying life as a newlywed and graduated from Fordham Law School in December.

Another former Head Chimesmaster, **Courtney Kimball ‘01** wrote, “I am still in Alaska and loving it. I got out of the Air Force in the summer of 2007 and now work for an environmental consulting firm. Although I spend most of my time in the office, when I am in the field I get to visit various mining operations, power plants, military bases, refineries, and whatnot. My shining accomplishments of 2008 were purchasing a small log home and adopting Boots, a cat who does not enjoy my piano playing. Music-wise, I am a percussionist in the community band here in Fairbanks and get together with a few friends on the weekends for jazz jam sessions... About a year ago,

we had a Cornell alumni gathering in Fairbanks. I think there were about 15 of us, from the class of ‘49 on up and mostly engineers!... No one batted an eye when we all stood up at our table and sang the ‘Alma Mater’ before heading back into town under the Northern Lights.”

Our Honorary Chimesmaster, Chris Haggard also has some exciting news. His father **Richard (Dick) Haggard ‘58** reports that Chris moved into his own group home in March. “It is called Jubilee House and will be home to six young adults like Chris, now almost 40! We’ve been working on this for 15 years and the State of PA has heard our message, our plan for a new model (where the parents oversee the caregivers)... We’ll all have get-togethers on special weekends and holidays, but generally, Chris will live there, go to his same daily activities, and soon have a new family and life with younger friends. We’re all happy about that.”

It was good to hear from **Erwin Chan ‘00** who is now a professor in Linguistics at the University of Arizona. He continues his pursuit of Cornell and chimes memorabilia. Be sure to look at the image/poem he shared on the following pages.

**Robert (Bob) Feldman ‘66, ‘75** visited the bell tower at Trinity Church, adjacent to the Princeton campus in March with **SiYi Wang ‘08**, who is now a graduate student at Princeton. He writes, “Trinity Church is where Cornell organized a Chime Day as part of the 1995 Guild of Carillonners congress at Princeton, attended by a number of chimers from around the country and several Cornell chimesmasters. Michael Unger, one of the chimers at Trinity, accompanied us in the tower and SiYi and I played a few songs on their 11-bell Meneely chime, including the ‘Rag’ and the ‘Cornell Alma Mater’. They even have four-foot pedals! We were pleased to see they have a copy of our *161 Steps* record album prominently displayed in the playing area.” 



SiYi Wang ‘08 tries the 11-bell chime at Trinity Church in Princeton, New Jersey. Photograph by Robert Feldman ‘66, 75.

**Stay connected with Cornell Chimes alumni and friends throughout the year...** Join the chimes alumni email list-serve!

A list-serve is basically just a “list” of email addresses (in this case, chimesmasters’ email addresses). When a message is sent to the list-serve address, *chimes-alum-l@cornell.edu*, the message is sent to all of the people subscribed to the list.

This is a fun way to keep abreast of chimes and bell-related events and stories throughout the year. List volume is manageable and shouldn’t overwhelm your inbox.

If you are interested in subscribing, **your email address has changed (note mail forwarding on your email account can disrupt your ability to respond)**, or you have additional questions about this list, please email *chimes@cornell.edu*.

### Calling all Chimers and Bell Enthusiasts!

Our friends at St. James Church in Stratford, Ontario are hosting a Chimes Festival in June. Events will include visits to three local chimes (including the 11-bell Meneeley chime at St. James Church).

#### **Chimes Festival - Stratford, Ontario June 19, 20 & 21 2009**

For more information visit:  
<http://www2.cyg.net/~stjam/update1.htm>

### Chimesmaster Corner


#### Wayne Kim '09, Head Chimesmaster

April is here, and despite the requisite showers, each weekend grows noticeably warmer and brighter than the last. As if in affirmation of spring, the view from McGraw Tower is more picturesque than usual, and Cornellians come out of hiding to lounge, study, and toss frisbees in the Arts Quad, which is once again green and lush. Of course, this also means that our practice stand comes to life; you can always hear the music-box-tinkling that is our practice stand as you walk past McGraw Tower. This, obviously, is our new round of compets, practicing to join our ranks as chimesmasters.

In an effort to maximize the quality of the competition, I made it a goal to ensure that everyone who had even the slightest interest in becoming a chimesmaster had the opportunity to do so. In short, I wanted every eligible compet to know about our competition. I achieved this goal through increased advertising efforts. Along with our normal efforts of blanketing the campus with posters, we had quarter-cards designed and mailed to every freshman living on campus. Email list-serves relayed competition information across the campus. And in case that didn't get their attention, we displayed advertisements on large television screens in the Cornell Store and the North Campus Community Centers (Robert Purcell and Appel Commons). I'm pleased to say that our efforts were very successful. We had a total of 50 compets enter the competition initially, a significant increase from the 35-40 compets we've had in recent years (25% - 43% more than usual!). Of these 50 compets, six strong candidates made it into the second round of the competition.

To further the quality of the competition, we held our annual How-To-Be-A-Coach meeting (which I like to call the HTBAC meeting) to help us be the best coaches possible for our new compets. We not only discussed essential topics that all compets should know about but also when we should discuss these with them. In particular, we felt

that our comments should begin with primarily technical comments (playing accurately, using your foot effectively, having efficient choreography, etc.) in the early stages of the competition. As the competition progresses to the final weeks, we will focus on the musical aspects of playing (e.g., widening dynamic range, phrasing melodic lines). This progression of technical comments to musical comments is affectionately known as the "Jenn Diagram" after our devoted chimes advisor, Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, '97, who originally came up with the concept. The HTBAC not only helped the chimesmasters prepare for the second round of the competition, but also provided a good social outing.

We are now well into the second half of the competition. The compets have had several weeks of playing experience under their belts and are preparing for the final judged concerts. So far, I am very impressed with their talent and dedication. They are attempting very difficult pieces and playing them beautifully. I was forced (to my delight) to change a required piece at the last minute because one of the compets played it on her own a few days before it was announced. I look forward to hearing their judged concerts in the coming weeks and to announcing the newest members of the chimes family. 



Cornell visitor Jai Kumar snapped this picture of Ryan Fan '10, while he was out promoting the chimesmaster competition.

## Student Spotlight on Kathy Houng '10

Marisa LaFalce

*Kathy and I sat down to chat in Olin Library, the day after Spring Break.*

*Hi Kathy, welcome back! How was your break?*

It was good. I went home (to New Jersey). It was pretty relaxing.

*What did you do while you were home?*

I was sick for the first half so I slept a lot, but I spent the second half letterboxing at home and in New York City.

*Letterboxing? Very cool. It's become a hobby for many chimesmasters. I bet you didn't realize you would develop two new passions- bells and letterboxing! Ed. note: learn more at: <http://www.letterboxing.org/>.*

Yes it's true! I hadn't heard of it until last fall when I had some visitors at my concert talking about it. My younger brother got into it too, so we did a few together. We found some in Central Park and even one inside a store in Manhattan.

*Sounds like a good break. How is the rest of your semester going – I don't think I've seen you since the chimes trip to New York City in December.*

That's true. My semester is going well. I've got a couple of new things going on, so it's more of a balancing act than last semester.

*Like what?*

Well, I've joined a group called Therapy Through Music, where I go twice a week to two local nursing homes to play the piano. And I am involved in helping to select students for Enrich Kenya, the winter travel program I went on last year. And Relay for Life is coming up.

*That's a lot. Tell me about Kenya. What does the program do?*  
I went on the program between the fall and spring semesters last year (2006-07 winter session). We just finished selecting the fourth group and are now transitioning them into the process.

The group focuses on HIV/AIDS and nutrition education. While we were there, we led three-day seminars focused on nutrition, breastfeeding, and the like. They were very interactive and the response was very positive.

*So are you studying nutrition?*

Yes, I am majoring in nutrition in the College of Human Ecology, with a minor in global health.

*What do you think you want to do after graduation, or is it too early to tell?*

Well, this summer I have an internship in Tanzania. Half of my time will be spent looking at nutrition and agricultural policy. The other half will be spent in an internship, hopefully at local clinics or something dealing with educational outreach. I'm

not sure if I'm more interested in a medical or policy direction. I am hoping that by the end of the summer, my experiences will help me figure out which part I'd like to focus on.

*Nutrition is a rigorous major; do you have a lot of chemistry classes this semester?*

Some, I'm taking nutrition and biochemistry, microbiology, a class on the U.S. health care system - which I really enjoy, an infant growth and development course - which I also really enjoy, plus a one-credit seminar in preparation for Tanzania. I was very, very glad to be done with orgo (organic chemistry). It was frustrating because I don't foresee when I'll actually use that!

*You'll be pre-enrolling for your senior-year courses pretty soon. Will you have a lot of flexibility to take electives?*

I've already been pretty lucky. Last year I took cooking in the hotel school. If I have time I'd like to take some additional humanities courses, maybe photography; as well as some more policy courses. Enough science for me!

*Lets back up a bit. Why did you choose Cornell?*

I always knew my interests were in health and food. I enjoy all aspects of food – how it pertains to health, flavor, preparation, etc. I looked at programs in nutrition across the nation and I liked what Cornell had to offer. I also didn't want to go too far from home. There were only 66 students in my graduating class and I liked how Cornell had seven smaller colleges within the larger university.

My great uncle also encouraged me and my parents that it was a great opportunity and that a good education (from Cornell) would take me places. I love it. I still love it here – despite orgo!

*Cornell is an amazing place. You can enter and exit and “just” get a great education, or you can take advantage of many unique opportunities– just as you have.*

Yes. I always encourage my residents (I am a resident advisor) to take advantage of everything. Sometimes it's hard to swim through all the options, so I try to help them navigate.

*Tell me more about your resident advisor (RA) role. Have you done that since you finished freshman year?*

No. This is my first year. It's great. I live in Donlon Hall, which is stereotyped as a “party dorm” but that isn't true. I love that I can help develop a close-knit community with access to professors and programs. We've taken students on a library tour, to the Ithaca Farmer's Market, to free shows at the Schwartz Performing Arts Center. There are lots of free and low cost opportunities. I love programming; it's a great way to expose people to new ideas and things on campus.

*We talked before about your piano background, but how did you discover the chimes?*

That's a great story. My student job is as a paid caller with the Cornell Annual Fund. Last year I called an alumna, Melody (Hung) Wong '03. We had a great conversation where she

mentioned that she was a chimesmaster and encouraged me to try out. Our call was late in the fall semester, so fortunately I didn't miss that year's competition. I tried out in the spring of 2008, and here I am!

*What a small chimes world!*

Yes. Now I am a manager in the student caller program, and I discovered another chimes connection just last week.

*You're involved with so much, what else do you do?*

I'm part of the ASHOKA initiative. It's in collaboration with Johns Hopkins, George Mason, and the University of Maryland promoting social entrepreneurship. They work with campus leaders to engage and promote service learning in a productive way. I'm also a student advisor for nutrition. It's similar to my RA role, but not as intense.

*As an RA are you on-call often?*

Usually I am on-call every other week. There are two of us on call together during the weekends.

*So does that leave you very many free nights? What do you do on a typical Friday night?*

I love attending performances, whether at the Schwartz Center, or a cappella or dance. Or if there isn't anything happening on campus that interests us (my friends), we might watch a movie, or go down to the (Ithaca) Commons.

*I know you are a foodie, and with the end of the competition coming, there has been discussion about where to have the selection dinner. Have you weighed in on that?*

No, not yet. But I just enjoy the opportunity to go out for a free meal in Ithaca!

*How does it feel to be a coach instead of a compet this year?*

It's good. I haven't coached all of my compets yet because of some conflicts and subbing, but I've been impressed with the songs they [the compets] have chosen. I feel I should step up my game!

*Is it nice to be on this side?*

Yes. I miss it a bit. We still have our afternoon concerts to play, but I feel like I haven't gotten to play "the Rag" as much. Not that I'll ever forget how to play it!


*With all of your activities, have you found time to compose or arrange any music for the chimes?*

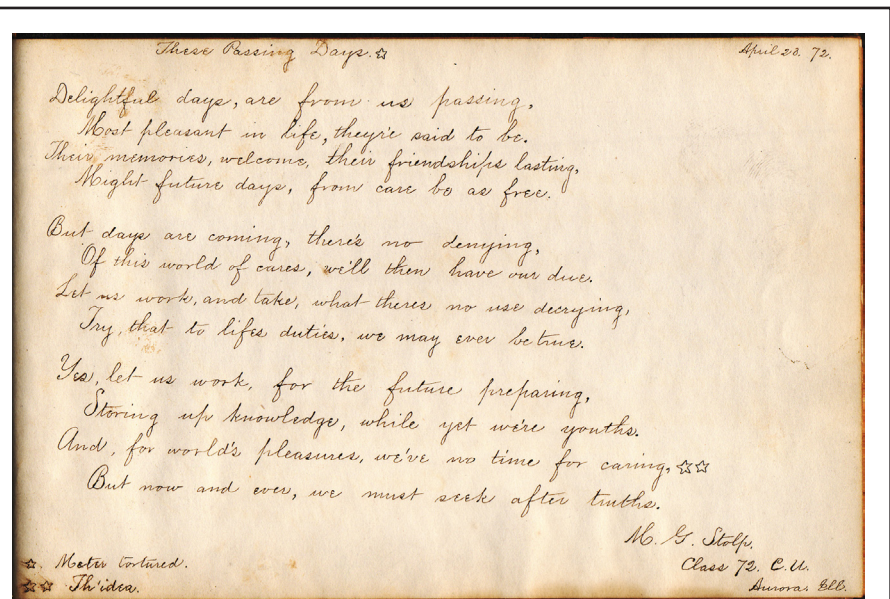
Yes. I arranged the "Batman theme" when Michael Uslan, the executive producer of the Dark Knight came to campus. He didn't hear

it, but my friend mentioned that I arranged/played it and he was very impressed. That was a thrill! I also arranged "I'll Be Home For Christmas." It sounded pretty good, but I haven't finalized either piece enough to submit to the proposed process.

*Don't forget to do that some day! Too often chimesmasters arrange pieces but never propose them because they just want to tweak them a bit more... Do you have a favorite chimes piece?*

I like "When I'm Sixty-four" by the Beatles, as well as "Bare Necessities" from *the Jungle Book*. I played those songs early on, maybe when I was a compet, and I've always liked the way they sound.

*Kathy, thank you. It's been a pleasure getting to know you better!* 



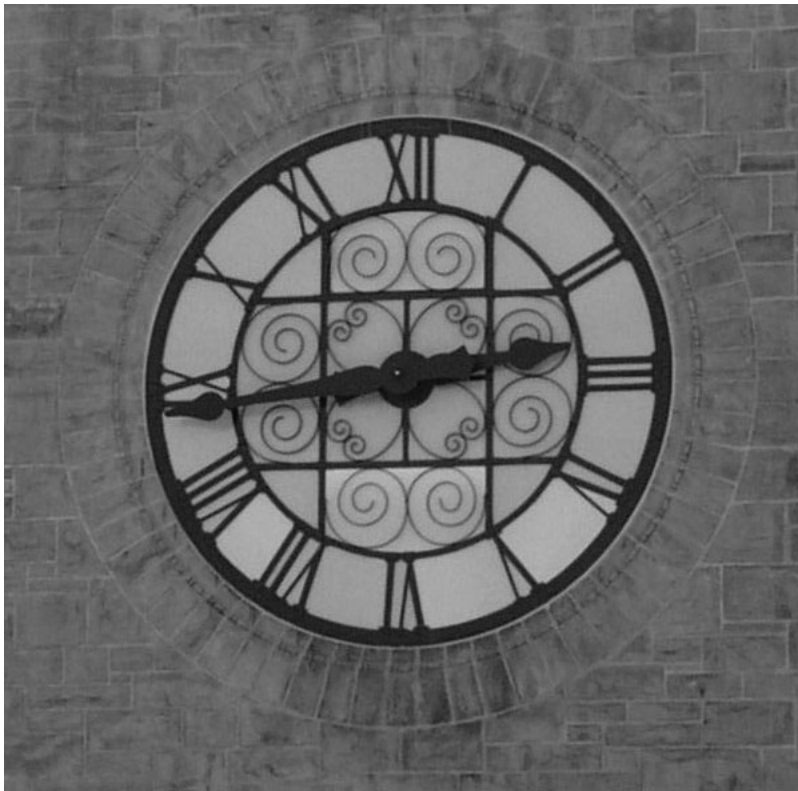
**These Passing Days  
Myron Greeley Stolp, class of 1872, chimesmaster**

*Delightful days, are from us passing,  
Most pleasant in life, they're said to be.  
Their memories, welcome, their friendships lasting,  
Might future days, from care be as free.*

*But days are coming, there's no denying,  
Of this world of cares, we'll then have our due.  
Let us work, and take, what there's no use decriing,  
Try, that to life's duties, we may ever be true.*

*Yes, let us work, for the future preparing,  
Storing up knowledge, while yet we're youths.  
And, for world's pleasures, we've no time for caring,  
But now and ever, we must seek after truths.*

This charming poem about college days, shared by Erwin Chan '00, is from a vintage Cornell autograph book containing several signatures from the class of 1872 including Myron Greeley Stolp, the poem's author and the second chimesmaster.



**Cornell Reunion, June 4-8, 2009**  
***Will You Be Back?***

**Chimes Concerts**

Friday at 6 p.m.

Saturday at 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

**McGraw Tower Open House and Concert**

Saturday 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The Saturday morning concert features the songs of Cornell to honor those classes celebrating 60th - 75th reunions.

We hope that you'll visit the tower to enjoy the music and the views. Alumni chimesmasters are encouraged to play! For more information, including alumni chimesmaster access to the practice room, contact the Cornell Chimes.



**Cornell University**  
**The Cornell Chimes**

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