

Cornell University The Cornell Chimes

Newsletter of the Cornell Chimesmasters and McGraw Tower

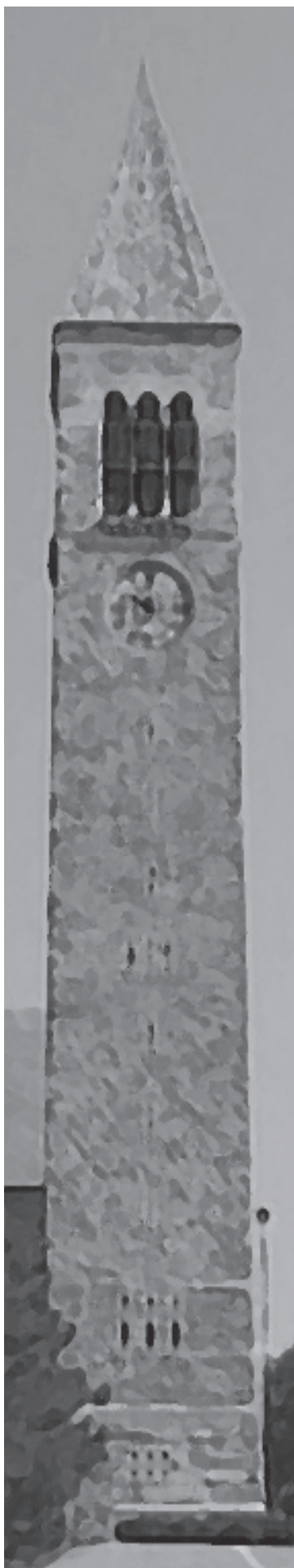
Chimesmaster's Corner **Taras Czebiniak '06**

The yearly return of the Ithacan springtime is always extraordinary. While I remember the day last fall when the campus was first blanketed in scintillating snow, I am now equally amazed by the sight of green nature poking through as grass, trees, flowers, birds, and more rabbits than I remember are returning to campus. For the chimes, of course, the springtime heralds the return of a critical part of our own campanological life cycle: the annual chimesmaster competition.

Of course, the form that the competition takes changes slightly every year as we strive to make compet-friendly improvements, ensuring that they have every chance possible to master our unique instrument in the ten weeks of the competition. This year, I have rolled back some recent changes and kept others, making it my goal to give the compets as much reasonable flexibility as I can allow to make sure they make the most of their experience.

We started this year's competition with forty-one interested and promising Cornellians who were whittled down to six competing in our second round. Of these, we lost one to other commitments on Cornell's slumberless campus. Another discovered our Practice Room's favorable acoustics, which awakened a passion for singing, and we are now down to four. Nevertheless, I am delighted with the abilities of this year's group: one compet, for example, wowed me with an impressive performance of music that I myself would have been hesitant to perform in one sitting. With the judged round starting soon, I am certainly looking forward to superb music from the tower while enjoying our traditional breakfast treats out on the adjacent terrace under the crisp morning sun.


While the competition remains our big springtime news, I would also like to continue a discussion we began at the Chimes Advisory Council regarding small but incremental changes in McGraw Tower's technology toolbox. Many of you have seen our online database and scheduling capabilities (visit <http://www.chimes.cornell.edu> > concert schedule). I myself learned of the utmost importance of the online schedule over Winter Break when, after hitting some stray bells around two in the afternoon on a weekday, a complaint was politely and promptly delivered into my Gmail inbox. The issue? Bell-playing at a non-standard time of day, and no mention of it on our online schedule. The system's power becoming ever more evident to me, I have made sure to get planned




schedule changes listed online. Of course, this hasn't precluded the occasional impromptu "Happy Birthday" for a friend or our yearly recital on initiation day of "For He's an Alpha Sig."

Pushing our technological capability further, Marisa LaFalce '96 has worked diligently through our acquisition of a new iMac G5 with matching software in the office. One of the first planned uses was to produce an internal digital video disc of Gordon Slater's words of wisdom from the Canadian Dominion Carillonneur's fall visit. Alex Thimons '07 and I are edging closer to completing this project for the benefit of future chimesmasters. Along with our new computer we also received *Finale* music composition and arrangement software. This software offers many features and capabilities beyond those offered by *Overture*, which we had previously been using.

The previous office computer received an upwards promotion, of sorts. Now located facing the main playing stand, it serves as a ready gateway to our online database and playsheet system at the top of the tower. Come see it during your next visit! While several considerations are still keeping us from moving immediately to Lisa Ngai's smart online playsheets, the hardware is in place for a future switchover.

While I could go on about our tower happenings, the nice weather is beckoning me to wrap up and go outside. Before doing so, I wanted to thank you all for your continued support of our program, and I hope to join some of you around the tower at the upcoming June reunion! 



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.

The Cornell Chimes:
Web: www.chimes.cornell.edu
Email: chimes@cornell.edu
Phone: 607-255-5350
Post: B07 Day Hall, Ithaca, New York 14853


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



Photograph of the welcome display in front of McGraw Tower, taken by Bob Feldman '66, '75, on April 1.

April Fools! Marisa LaFalce '96

Visitors to McGraw Tower on Saturday, April 1 may have been fooled into watching for splattering eggs, or curious about the chimes staffing, but they were not the only ones who were duped! On Thursday evening emails between chimesmasters began flying about Saturday's Egg Drop Contest from the top of McGraw Tower. The alleged contest included directions for viewing the competitors' egg-drop contraptions on Friday in Duffield Hall! To add to the festivities, a series of dubious chimes arrangements, mostly of the rap music genre, were being written for Saturday's concert.


Both Jennifer [Lory-Moran '96, '97] and Marisa [LaFalce '96] were concerned about a contest involving projectiles from the top of McGraw Tower, particularly when there had been no notification or safety planning for said event. After an alarmed phone call was made to the Head Chimesmaster, Taras confessed that it was an April Fool's prank by the chimesmasters, and both Jennifer and Marisa discovered they'd been fooled! 

Bellmen's Fiesta Crystal Cun '07

As much fun as it is to play duets, the reality is that chiming, for the most part, is a solitary art. However, being the social creatures that we are, this semester the chimesmasters have made concerted efforts to get together for social events and other activities in and outside of the clock tower.

In February, we welcomed back Allegra Schafer '99, who joined us for an extended hour-long evening concert. Following that, we congregated in the tower office for a casual dinner of Chinese take-out and good company.

In March, I hosted a combination potluck and board game gathering, an expansion of the traditions of chimesmaster dinners and Cranium nights sponsored by Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, '97. This was a rousing success, and we all learned a little more about each other. Despite being

completely unscripted, you may be amused to know that we ended up with a very vegetarian-friendly Ithacan potluck. Contributions included gazpacho, bruschetta, zucchini lasagna, and ample amounts of hummus, veggies and chips. Then, we moved on to several rounds of Scattergories and Taboo. In between arguments over whether Lisa Ngai '05 counted as a "Famous Female", a great time was had by all. Plan on additional social events in the future; I certainly looking forward to gathering again! 



The Cornell Chimesmasters would like say "congratulations" to the couples below who we played wedding concerts for in 2005! We also wish the best to those couples who were engaged in McGraw Tower during the last year.

Kelly Deasy and Joel Maxcy	January 15	Monica Devine and Chad Schmidt	July 30
Kim Thorpe and Don Knight	April 16	Elizabeth Tricomi and Michael Shiflett	July 30
Alison Louie and Chris Anker	April 23	Kathy VanRiper and Ronald Poole	July 31
Janée Carr and Thomas McKinney	May 21	Kathryn Kraus and Sean Bolks	August 6
Sarah Kirk and David Stanford	May 21	Jennifer Reese and Jonathan Reichard	August 6
Sarah Whittleton and David Santisi	May 21	Kate Yannitte and James Monagle	August 6
April Denmark and Frank Miles	June 4	Sara Pesaresi and Brian Kreher	August 7
Cheryl Holleran and Nicholas Brandmeir	June 4	Lauren Poleshuk and Zack Mykins	August 27
Kathleen Newman and Timothy Ferry	June 4	Rebecca DeMarinis and Andrew D'Eloia	September 17
Kelly Criddle and Joel Haenlein	June 18	Liz Cho and Hanson Lee	September 24
Jayne Glasshoff and Gregory Ricciardi	June 25	Emily Bahl and Samuel Romaninsky	October 1
Donna Ross and David Garlough	June 25	Elisa Salas and Aaron Saathoff	October 1
Heidi Elston and Josh Waterfall	July 2	Amanda Saxby and Jonathan Young	October 2
Nicole LoGiudice and Eric Russo	July 2	Jolene Comfort and Jeffrey Simmons	October 8
Melissa Loewenstern and Robert Lewin	July 3	Erika Johnson and Joe Meldrim	October 8
Virginia Parsons and Jamieson Brown	July 9	Michelle Lenox and Clayton Tinsley	October 9
Stephanie Seifried and Shawn Burget	July 9	Jennifer Graap and Dan Allen	October 16
Holly Melendez and Joshua Hannam	July 16	Maria-Cristina Garcia and Sherman Cochran	October 22
Leslie Sadoff and Mario Springer	July 16	Mary Ellen Varga and Paul Varga	October 22
Mya Fonarov and Christopher Gibson	July 23	Alissa Rossman and Ogaga Ifowodo	December 3



Alumni Notes

This is the global edition of Alumni Notes with chimesmasters writing in from around the world!

Rich Johnson '80 recently returned from a trip to Europe. "I just got back from a week in the beautiful city of Prague where I had the chance to listen to the Loretto Carillon, a light 2-octave instrument with an atypical tuning, <http://www.concerts-prague.cz/loreta.htm>. The city also has a traveling carillon, <http://www.carillon.cz/carillon/en/historie.htm>, that was on tour so I didn't get a chance to visit it. I made friends with a fellow bell fanatic, and University of Rochester graduate, who also works as a tour guide. In short, a 'Bell Tour' of Prague can be arranged for those so inclined!" Thanks for the tip Rich!

"Greetings from the biggest beach in the world (still looking for the ocean...)" writes **Courtney Kimball Zimmerman '01**, Captain in the U.S. Air Force. Courtney is currently deployed to the 380th Civil Engineer Squadron in Southwest Asia where she is working as an airfield project manager. Her musical opportunities these days are limited to Karaoke nights and USO shows, but she is doing well and working in a fairly safe location. Courtney writes, "I am looking forward to being back in Alaska by summertime and rejoining my friends in the Fairbanks Community Band. Hello to everyone, I hope all are doing well!"

We suspect the winter weather was milder in Southwest Asia than it was in Alaska, and a search for warmer temperatures may have been **George Ubogy's '58** incentive for traveling to the Dominican Republic. He wrote, "I swung and hung from a trapeze at Club Med and practically pulled my arms out

of their sockets by the time I was through, rendering myself unfit to handle a hand bell, let alone a chime, for a couple of weeks. I believe I will be functional again by September, though." What is it about chimesmasters and trapezes? If you recall, **Bob Feldman '66, '75** wrote of his escapades on a trapeze in the fall newsletter. Perhaps it's an affinity for heights?

Dina Friedman '78 a/k/a Debbie Friedman or DCF has published two novels for children. *Escaping Into the Night* (Simon and Schuster) is in print and *Playing Dad's Song* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux) will be published in September. Visit <http://www.ddinafriedman.com> to learn more about both books! As for her own time, Dina writes, "My own music has been relegated to doodling and occasional forays with my part-time klezmer band, the Hot Kishkes, but my kids remain serious about it. My daughter Alana, will be attending Oberlin College next year (Cornell was too big for her) and hopes to do a double degree in piano performance along with something in the humanities. My son, Rafael, 13, plays oboe, violin, and electric violin in orchestras, chamber groups, and jazz ensembles. We're all very happy in western Massachusetts, where we've lived since 1981 but hope to visit Ithaca some time soon."

"I have news! I'm learning to play the carillon!" says **Lisa Ngai '05**. "I've already had two lessons and participated in a master class. I'm lucky that there are two carillons in the area where I can practice, and I've been given keys to both. One is a 42-bell carillon at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church. I have to climb a tight spiral staircase to get to the playing stand. About 2/3 of the way up the steps get loud and creaky. I worry every time that the whole staircase is about to come tumbling down. But on the upside, no one can sneak up on me while I'm playing!

The second carillon is called the Bell Tower Center Carillon, with 53 bells. Both carillons have different keyboard layouts and pitches, so playing both is helping me learn to adapt to different playing conditions. If all continues to go well, I may begin playing regular concerts in a few months. I'm also hoping to attend the GCNA Congress at Yale this summer, so I may be seeing many of you there!"


Winter is often a quieter time for visitors to Ithaca but we did welcome **Allegra Schafer '99** in February, and **Bob Feldman '66, '75** in March. Bob had just returned from a business trip to Ohio, where he dined with **Phil Gottling '52** and his wife Barbara '54. There's lots of music in the Cincinnati area, and Phil and Barbara have run into Rick Watson of Meeks, Watson and Company at both carillon and organ recitals. Rick recently cast a bell for Bob so if you have any 1-bell arrangements, send them Bob's way!

We have some exciting news from Ithaca... **Keith Jenkins '93** took a paternity leave from the chimes this semester to spend time with his wife Stephanie Ortolano '98 and their daughter Sabina Elizabeth Jenkins-Ortolano, born February 25! "Although she hasn't attended a chimes concert, she is already developing a taste for a wide variety of music, from Paganini to Led Zeppelin to Rokia Traore. But her favorites are the little songs that her papa makes up." Congratulations Keith and Stephanie!

There is also good news from North of the border. **Melody Hung '03** wrote, "Have I been engaged in any musical or bell-related activities? Musical activities, yes, I am currently in Ottawa, Ontario teaching violin and piano. Bell-related activities, no, except I have been teaching some of my students a song called 'Chimes'. And if the question

stopped after 'engaged', then yes again! I recently got engaged to Raymond Wong and we are planning our wedding for this summer." Congratulations Melody, we wish you and Raymond the best!

Summer is just around the corner, and that brings Reunion Weekend, June 8-11. **John Hoare, '56, '57** is looking forward to returning for his 50th reunion. He and his wife Mary Jane also plan to host their 3rd annual chimes folks gathering at their place on Seneca Lake this summer.

We hope that anyone traveling to Ithaca will come visit us in McGraw Tower. Please keep in touch! 

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, or you have additional questions about this list, please email chimes@cornell.edu.

News from the Chimes Advisory Council Co-Chairs Robert Feldman '66, '75 and Grace Jean '00

With spring upon us, it's time to start limbering up those chimesmaster muscles for our next Chimes Advisory Council (CAC) meeting and bellfest on Saturday, September 30. We're excited about seeing all of you again. We'll follow a similar overall format to prior years with an informal dinner at the Rose on Friday and the council meeting on Saturday. All alumni chimesmasters and friends of the chimes are welcome to join us, whether you are CAC members or not.

If you have any questions or ideas for the agenda, please feel free to contact either of us:
Bob Feldman Robert_Feldman@hotmail.com 508-740-5390
Grace Jean gvj00@yahoo.com 703-431-1441

We have three committees: musicality, fundraising, and visitors experience. As in the past, we will break into parallel committee sessions for part of the meeting. Please think about which committee meeting you would like to attend.

The committees have been busy since last year's meeting. In the musicality area, the chimesmasters, with help from Marisa LaFalce, brought Gordon Slater, Dominion Carillonneur of Canada, to campus last fall to present a chimes master class. Daniel Zlatin '79, '80 reports the consensus among chimesmasters was that the class was very useful. At our next meeting, the Musicality Committee will discuss what kind of schedule would allow all chimesmasters to participate in such a class during their active years in the tower.


Other items reported from the chimesmasters in the musicality arena:

- A full edition of the music software *Finale* has been made available in the tower for composition and transcription purposes.
- We should gather a list of ideas generated by the master class. Perhaps this could be done as an update to Richard H. Lee's '41 *Chimes and Campus*. Or we could consider putting together a Wiki with these ideas and information, to get it online and updateable.

The Fundraising Committee, led by George Ubogy '58, has been working on steps to expand donor support for the chimes program. It is due to generous support like this, that all current chimesmasters are invited to attend the annual Guild of Carillonneurs Congress at Yale University in June. We hope to continue this initiative each time the congress meeting takes place on the East Coast.

The Visitors Experience Committee has made progress on the display case for the tower lobby, through efforts by Marisa and Alex Thimons '07. We expect the display case will be in place by summer.

You'll get the latest scoop on these projects at the meeting, as well as a chance to discuss them. Please join us in September to get your chimes "fix," be updated on campus and chimes activities, rekindle friendships and memories, and help us move ahead on the many projects we're working on.

May the chimes be with you! 

Student Spotlight on Crystal Cun '07

The editor sat down with Crystal Cun, a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences, just after Spring Break. Crystal graciously spoke to me so that we could learn more about our active and engaging undergraduates. Now as a second year chimesmaster, she is enjoying the competition from the chimesmaster perspective!

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me Crystal. What is your major in Arts and Sciences?

I'm an economics major. I started my Cornell career with a one-year stint in the Hotel School, but my interests were so varied that I transferred into the Arts college.

What drew you to the subject of economics?

I find the subject interesting, but I also like it because it is a flexible major. I have such diverse interests – physics, math, music – that I wanted the time and flexibility to take a lot of different courses. Who knows what my course schedule senior year will bring! I have really enjoyed taking the distribution requirements for the college.

That is an interesting mix, have you thought about what you might want to do after graduating? I know you still have some time!

I'm still undecided. Maybe graduate school, and a PhD in economics. If I enter the workforce I think economic policy and consulting, or working in a think tank, would all be interesting.

“The competition appealed to my competitive side, but as I got into it, I was attracted to the rich tradition of the bells. I enjoyed the hours of practicing.”

Fortunately you have time to decide. Lets move to a different topic, where are you from?

I'm from Wilbraham, Massachusetts. If you've ever driven down the Mass Pike, you've probably seen the sign along the road, it's the home of Friendly's Ice Cream.

What made you choose to attend Cornell?

My decision to apply was very spontaneous. I received the view book in December, and after looking at it, decided to apply to the Hotel School. I had worked in hotels in high school, and I had enjoyed that work. But

as I said, my interests are very diverse, and so the schools (and subjects) that I applied to were all very different. I waited to see how things worked out, and in the end Cornell it was!

Do you have any plans for summer yet?

I have applied for a lot of internships in Washington D.C. so I hope to be there. Or somewhere...maybe Ithaca if D.C. doesn't work out!

Either place would be a great location to spend your summer. Good luck! Now, please talk about the chimes, what drew you to the bells?

My decision to participate in the competition was very spontaneous. A friend called and said they were headed to the information meeting in fifteen minutes and would I like to join them? That was my first time in McGraw Tower and my first Cornell Chimes concert. I decided to try out the competition and those first few weeks of practicing really piqued my interest in the bells. The competition appealed to my competitive side, but as I got into it, I was attracted to the rich tradition of the bells. I enjoyed the hours of practicing.

What is your favorite chimes piece(s)?

My favorite pieces at the moment are “Windrose” by Keith Jenkins '93, and Mozart's “Fantasy in D Minor.” Playing Disney pieces is also fun!

The chimesmasters are all musically talented, what is your background?

I have played piano for many years, and I played violin when I was young. I also play bells in the Big Red Marching Band.

I will occasionally play keyboard for pit orchestras. I recently played in a pit for a theatre troupe production of “Assassins”. Playing in a pit orchestra is fun, but it is similar to the competition - it takes up a lot of time.

It sounds like you keep busy, and that bells are in your blood. What are the bells like in the marching band?

For band, the bells are similar to a xylophone layout. They're mounted so that you are able to march with them.

The Big Red Marching Band and the Cornell Chimes are similar because they are both uniquely Cornell traditions. When I came to the chimes competition, I thought “Hey,


I already know all of the Cornell songs!" It is a great sense of school pride.

How else do you enjoy spending free time?

I like to cook, and more importantly to eat! My friends and I have tried to enjoy all of the different ethnic restaurants in Ithaca. I also like to do web design. I'm responsible for the drumline site for the marching band, and I work on the Statler Hotel website. I really like using *Flash* to write web programs, and I hope to design a *Flash* computer game this summer. I enjoy the creative process.

It sounds like you are very busy, have you had time to arrange any music for the chimes yet?

I haven't done anything official. At least anything that has made it to the proposed stage yet, but I have lots of ideas! Hopefully I'll get to my magnum opus next year!

Crystal, thank you for taking the time to meet with me. It's a pleasure to speak with you and get to know you better! 

**Congress of the
Guild of Carillonneurs in North America
(GCNA)**

June 20-23, 2006

Hosted by Yale University

It has been a goal of the Cornell Chimes program to send all current chimesmasters to the GCNA Congress when it is hosted on the East Coast. Thanks to the generous support of alumni and friends, the time has finally come! For those who have never been, the GCNA is a weeklong event filled with carillon recitals, lectures by campanologists, and an overall festive opportunity to fraternize with other "bell fans." Chimesmasters who attended this event in the past have benefited from contacts they have made and a broader perspective of Cornell's role in the bell community. Please let us know if you plan to attend!


For more information about GCNA, including registration and accommodation information, visit <http://www.yale.edu/carillon/gcna2006/>.

**Notes from the Chimes Advisor
Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, '97**

When I last wrote, I was glowing in pride at having survived playing my first concert alone with my three-year-old daughter Fiona present. Ah, she was so cute, playing under the desk and hiding under her blanket. Ah, I was so naive to think it might last more than two weeks...

Fiona and I did have one or two successful concerts together after I wrote my last article. Then the trouble began. One week she was obsessed with analyzing the contents of the desk and attempting to make long-distance calls on the telephone. The next week I disconnected the phone for the concert. That concert featured Fiona standing two feet from the playing stand, screaming at me to "Stop playing and read me a book!" Meanwhile, I had to keep playing (miraculously, in tempo), while shouting back "I can't stop playing – I'm giving a concert right now!" It was not our finest mother-daughter moment.

The next week, our head chimesmaster Taras offered his support. He came up during my concert so there would be two of us to watch Fiona instead of just one. This was a lovely idea. But what two chimesmasters can resist playing a concert together without playing at least one duet? So in the middle of "Hornpipe" from Handel's *Water Music*, Fiona headed over to the mini-fridge, apparently in desperate need of a drink. In the independent manner of three-year-olds everywhere, she prepared to pour herself a glass of water from a very full gallon jug. In the wobbly manner of three-year-olds everywhere, she dropped the jug and spilled a good half-gallon of water all over the playing stand floor.

I don't think the next newsletter will feature many tales of "Fiona In The Tower". It has become very clear that it can no longer be just the two of us in happy tower bliss. I've had to insist that she either come with my husband or stay home since the "Great Water Fiasco". Although I miss her, I do enjoy the freedom of fifteen minutes each week that are just for me, when I can be in the tower alone and focus on making the best music I can, not just try to survive. The quality of music coming out of the tower has certainly improved, as has my peace of mind. 



Cornell Alumni Reunion Weekend June 8-11, 2006

Will you be returning to the Hill for your reunion in June? If yes, we hope that you will join us in McGraw Tower for one or more of our special events. Alumni chimesmasters are always encouraged to come back and play the bells!

Concerts

Friday 6 p.m.; Saturday 9:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Sunday 10:40 a.m.

Richard H. Lee '41 Chimesmaster Recital

Keith Jenkins '93 and Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, '97 will perform a recital featuring the original compositions of chimesmaster Dick Lee '41 on Saturday from 11-11:45 a.m. Listeners are encouraged to listen from the stone terrace adjacent to McGraw Tower.

McGraw Tower Open House:

The chimesmasters will be hosting an open house at McGraw Tower on Saturday from 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. We invite you to climb all 161 steps and enjoy the views!



Cornell University
The Cornell Chimes

B07 Day Hall
Ithaca, New York 14853-2801