Chimesmasters Enjoy Master Class with Belgian Carillonneur
Jennifer Lory-Moran ’96, ’97, Chimes Advisor

During the fall semester, the chimesmasters had the opportunity to once again participate in a master class with world-renowned carillonneur and composer Geert D’Hollander. This was Geert’s third visit to Cornell; we also worked with him in the spring of 2008 and the fall of 2009. Once again, the chimesmasters agreed that the experience was incredibly valuable.

Ten chimesmasters participated in the master class on October 1, 2011. The day was broken into two parts. In the morning, our focus was on performance. Chimesmasters prepared some of their best pieces to play, with the goal of receiving feedback on improving the musicality of their playing. Some of the pieces played included the duets “Canzona per Sonare” (Gabrieli) and “Ballet” from Petite Suite (Debussy), as well as the solo pieces “I Love My Love” (Holst), “Quest” (R. H. Lee ’41), “Kyrie” (Dalaker ’95), and “June” (Tchaikovsky). We each played our piece all the way through first; then we went back through it with Geert, working on building musical phrasing, playing with more attention to handling of the levers, or adding interesting details like trills where appropriate.

After an exhilarating morning of playing (with the mandatory interruption by the marching band playing outside of the Cornell Store), we headed downstairs to the office for a pizza lunch. At that time, the chimesmasters got a chance to know more about Geert’s life as a professional carillonneur. They heard about the many towers that he plays in, the schools where he teaches, and the way he changes the songs played on the drum in his tower at Easter time. YouTube videos were soon being pulled up on the office computer to see Geert’s towers and his playing. Too soon it was time to stop talking and head back upstairs for the afternoon session.

In the afternoon, the focus of our lessons was on writing arrangements for the chimes. For this part of the day, chimesmasters played pieces that they had arranged themselves and received feedback on important things to keep in mind when putting together an arrangement. The range of pieces presented in the afternoon demonstrates the very diverse interests within our group. Some of the pieces arranged for the afternoon were “Serenade” (Schubert), “Shenandoah”, “Morning Prayer”, “Merry-Go-Round of Life” (from the anime film Howl’s Moving Castle), and “Grasswalk” (from the video game Plants vs. Zombies). The advice Geert gives on arrangements tends to be less about which notes are used or where the melody lies, and more about what the arranger can do to make a piece that is playable for the performer.
Each time we have a guest come and give a master class, we ask the chimesmasters for feedback afterwards. When asked if the class was helpful, everyone agreed that it was. When asked how often we should have events like this, responses ranged from once every two years (our current schedule) to once each semester. Many of the chimesmasters mentioned how beneficial it is to have someone from outside the chimes program come to give a fresh perspective on the playing habits we develop as a group. And one of them wrote the following about their experience with this teacher: “Geert is particularly skilled as an instructor because he is just so good at making suggestions feel non-threatening… Geert is good at taking us where we are and nudging us to be better.”

Chimesmaster’s Corner
Claire Tse ’12, Head Chimesmaster

Spring is in the air! Students are throwing Frisbees around in T-shirts and shorts, and the Cornell Grounds Department is out in full force mulching flowerbeds rather than shoveling snow (which actually might change very soon if Ithaca is as capricious as past years). Although it is only February, we experienced an unusually warm winter with most likely less than six inches of snow total that we the students were present for in Ithaca. As a senior, it is bittersweet to think of leaving Cornell soon, but I definitely appreciate Ithaca bidding my senior class farewell with a parting gift of a gentle final winter season.

I would first like to recount an event that was only mentioned and anticipated in the last Chimesmaster’s Corner: the trip to the Wesleyan and Yale carillons. Our first stop was with Wesleyan University’s “Bell & Scrollers.” Although only one of their members was available to meet us, he definitely went above and beyond the call of duty. Middletown, Connecticut had just received several feet of snow. The bells were likewise covered in fresh white powder, but the Wesleyan carillonneur climbed a rickety ladder up into the bell cage with a broom to knock as much snow off the bells as possible so that we could actually try them out. We were also able to help him out by giving some tips on adjusting the bells before playing them. Our next stop was an arrival in New Haven along with carillonneurs from Wellesley. It was the first time many of us could watch a carillonneur perform on a carillon, and it definitely gave us a lot of insight into improving our own playing. It was a great trip to really heighten the excitement and creativity of the chimesmasters as we perform on our awesome instrument.

Much of that enthusiasm carried into the summer, which was an enormous benefit since it was an extremely busy summer for chimes. As summer chimesmaster, I coordinated 18 wedding and other specialty concerts and received some much appreciated help in actually performing them from Ivana Thng ‘12, Renee Setter ’13, and Erica Ho ’13. Lisa Ngai ’05 also returned to Ithaca this past summer and helped play a few regular concerts each week. We were fortunate to have at least one regular chimes concert almost every day for visitors.
The summer also saw one highly anticipated event that we have been working to schedule for five years: President David Skorton’s first visit to the clock tower. Despite it being the summer, we still hosted him with a decent number of chimesmasters including Erica Ho, Katie Hamren ’11, Gretchen Ryan ’97, Marisa LaFalce ’96, and me. President Skorton really enjoyed playing the 12 o’clock hour bells and taking a video on his iPhone of us playing the “Alma Mater Duets”.

My first semester as Head Chimesmaster proved to be hectic. Although we have traditionally limited the number of tours in a semester to five, all of the chimesmasters were very enthusiastic about giving as many tours as were desired by the campus. Consequently, we gave a grand total of 26 tours, mostly for classes. Even I can barely believe how great and hardworking all the chimesmasters were last semester. It was also great for publicity and increasing awareness of the Cornell Chimes amongst freshmen, many of whom returned this spring to participate in the competition. In terms of extra work outside of regularly scheduled concerts, we also performed seven specialty concerts. This included a surprising number of memorial concerts for services occurring in Sage Chapel. It might be time to create a new list of suggested music specifically for memorial concerts for the chimes website. Another chimes trend that has taken a slightly new direction last semester is the type of new arrangements being proposed. We have recently added many more “modern” and mainstream songs such as “I’m Yours” by Jason Mraz, “California Gurls” by Katy Perry, and the “Pirates of the Caribbean medley”.

This spring we are looking forward to the annual competition. As I write this sitting in the chimes office, the overhead lights and ceiling are shaking along with the faint strains I can hear of “the Rag” and “Alma Mater”. With three seniors graduating, it is important that we recruit a few new fantastic players. We have a great, dedicated and talented group of current chimesmasters who will soon be passing on some of their skills to the next set of players. I know this will be an amazing semester for the Cornell Chimes.

Claire (also known as CT) is a senior studying Economics and Sociology with a concentration in Business, Networks and Institutions and a minor in Inequality Studies. In addition to the head chimesmaster position, she is also active on the executive boards of the mental health organization “Cornell Minds Matter” and the publication “The Public Journal.” She hopes to begin working in the “real world” in the fall.
Alumni Notes

We have just a couple of notes from alumni this round. We encourage you to continue to keep and touch and visit us in the tower!

Taras Czebiniak ’06 writes, “I’m finishing up my three years at Berkeley Law and I’m preparing to take the bar exams for New York and Massachusetts later this year. I’ll be settling down in Boston in the fall, starting work as an IP corporate associate, and I hope to catch up with our great Chimes alumni in the area. I’m also enjoying being editor in chief of Boalt’s technology journal, BTLJ...because the Supreme Court and other courts routinely rely on scholarship we publish. On top of that I’m also hoping to take a carillon course this semester. I send my best to all of you and hope to join you for CAC in the fall!”

Taras was able to get back to Ithaca in April and play a couple of concerts. He was the first of many alumni who visited during the spring and summer. Sam Birmaher (SCB) ’10, Eric Hayes (ERH) ’05, Melody Hung (MLH) ’03, Elaina Stergiades (ESS) ’03, and Valerie DelRosario ’95, all returned to the tower during the summer for a visit and some playing! In August we welcomed back Robert Feldman ’66, ’75, George Ubogy ’58, and Peter Ryde (Bells of St. James Church) for a full weekend of playing. We were particularly excited to welcome back Lisa Ngai ’05 who spent the summer in Ithaca working. In her free time she played several concerts a week and was known to run into fellow chimes folks at some of Ithaca’s great ice cream stands! As a result of all of these alumni visitors the campus was graced by hours of beautiful chiming. Finally, a special thanks goes out to all of the Cornell Chimes Advisory Council members who returned for the November 2011 meeting.

Dina (Debbie) Friedman (DCF) ’78 is still living with her husband and cat in western Massachusetts. Dina reported: “She is no longer playing any chimes related instrument, but singing in the Amandla chorus, which specializes in world music. Her son is a freshman at New England Conservatory of music, majoring in oboe performance. Her daughter is living in New York area and working as a software trainer.”

Class of ’58 alum Dick Haggard wrote, “Nothing new from us. Playing handbells, as usual. No big bells, like Bob F (Robert Feldman ’66, ’75) gets to play!”

Stay connected with Cornell Chimes alumni and friends throughout the year... Join the chimes alumni email list-serve! A list-serve is simply a collection of addresses that receive an email when sent to just one address. If you are interested in subscribing, your email address has changed, or you would like more information about this list, email chimess@cornell.edu.

News from the Council Co-Chairs: Establishing an Unrestricted Chimes Program Endowment
Scott Silverstein ’08 and Daniel Zlatin ’81 MS

For several years, the Chimes Advisory Council (CAC) has been monitoring the financial strength of the Cornell Chimes program. In the Spring 2009 Cornell Chimes Newsletter we discussed the funding sources of the chimes, and mentioned that the advisory council had started discussions on the creation of an unrestricted endowment. With the extra incentive provided by the fallout from the financial downturn in 2008, made very tangible in the tightening of University budgets (including significant reductions to the chimes budget), this topic has become the advisory council’s top priority.

Starting from the Chimes Reunion of 2010, the CAC has been taking concrete steps to lay the groundwork for an unrestricted endowment. Our initial goal is $100,000, the University minimum to be considered an official endowment. When we reach this initial goal, the program will begin receiving monthly endowment payouts making an immediate impact on the current financial situation. We have made some very significant strides towards achieving this first goal.

Our ultimate goal is to achieve complete self-sufficiency of the chimes program, which would not be reached until we achieve an endowment level of $850,000.

For those interested in reviewing the funding sources for the chimes, we recommend taking a look at the Spring 2009 Newsletter (see http://www.chimes.cornell.edu/PDF/NEWSLETT_SP09. pdf). Those interested in more details on our progress to date are encouraged to contact the council co-chairs (scott.a.silverstein@gmail.com; daniel.zlatin@sympatico.ca).

World Carillon Congress – 75th Anniversary of GCNA
Jennifer Lory-Moran ’96, ’97, Chimes Advisor

Last summer’s annual Congress of the Guild of Carillonneur’s of North America (GCNA) was held in Michigan from June 26 through July 2, 2011. But this was no ordinary Congress. This year’s GCNA event was held in conjunction with the triennial Congress of the World Carillon Federation, so there were not just carillonneurs from all over North America at the event – there were carillonneurs from around the world.

Events throughout the week were held at nine carillons and one chime in the cities of Bloomfield Hills, Ann Arbor, and Detroit. During the week there were 28 recitals to attend. There were also 16 lectures, on topics including: Carillon Music of John Courter, Jef Denyn, and Johan Franco; Development of Carillon Arts in Russia; Catalan Music; University of Michigan bell foundling class; Maximizing Keyboard Responsiveness; Carillon Education; Technology and Carillon (using Twitter, Foursquare, YouTube, Jumpstart); and The Carillon as UNESCO World Heritage. Throughout the week there were also other fun diversions,
including a banquet dinner and an outdoor showing in Ann Arbor of the silent film *Phantom of the Opera* with accompaniment by the Baird Carillon.

**What I didn’t expect to happen at a World Carillon congress:** I was so excited to be able to attend this year’s Congress, since it was a joint event of both the North American guild and the World Carillon Federation. I knew I would have an opportunity to meet carillonneurs from around the world. But I wasn’t expecting that I would spend more time with Europeans than Americans and that I would educate them about the American chime as much as they educated me about European carillons.

On the first day of the Congress, I sat down to lunch with a table full of Dutch carillonneurs and their spouses. I was a little nervous that everyone would speak Dutch and I wouldn’t understand anything for the whole meal, but I am so glad that I risked it and sat down anyway. When I introduced myself and explained that I don’t play the carillon but a chime instead, they immediately wanted to know all about the chimes—what they look like, how they are played, all the ways they are different from the carillon. They did not have any experience with a playing stand like ours and were very intrigued. Lunch conversation was easy, but it’s hard to describe the chimes orally without some pictures or videos to help people understand.

The following day, I showed up prepared. I had printed out two pictures of our playing stand in use, and I brought my laptop so that I could show a YouTube video of how we play. While the pictures were definitely useful in clarifying what our stand looked like, the video was really the big hit.

The next day all the Congress attendees spent the day in Ann Arbor. The University of Michigan campus has two carillon towers to visit and there was a summer festival happening. But in spite of the draws of those activities, when I hopped on the shuttle bus to go visit the Kerrytown Chime, I found myself with a group of a dozen Dutch carillonneurs who were so interested in this “chime” instrument that they had to see one for themselves! We all took the shuttle over to the little shopping plaza with a bell tower on its roof and gave it a shot. I played a few pieces I had brought, and all the Dutch visitors took a turn as well. Some of them adapted to the chimes playing stand better than others, and many ended up using the side of their hand in classic carillonneur fashion (but the bells were light enough in Kerrytown for that to work). And, each got a great gold sticker that said, “I played the bells at Kerrytown” which they proudly displayed on their name badges for the rest of the week! (I took such pleasure all week from seeing those gold stickers, knowing that the organizers of the week’s events probably did not realize that the Kerrytown Chime would be one of the hot spots for the foreign visitors!)

Sharing what I could about the American chime turned out to be a wonderful way to initiate a connection with new people, and I wished that I knew more about the history of chimes in this country. The history of carillons in Europe and North America is very well documented; it is much harder to learn about the development of the chime.

**My GCNA performance debut:** This year marked the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the GCNA. In honor of the event, the organizers decided to have a recital with 75 performers. 75! Carillonneurs organized themselves into groups of five, with each group performing one piece. As the week unfolded, it turned out that there were not quite 75 people on the list, because the recital was the last event of the Congress. Many people would already be gone. The final result was a wonderful blend of highly experienced carillon members, college students, novices, spouses, and me! Cornell chimes alumna Judy Ogden ’71, ’75, ’77 invited me to join her group to play “The Undulating Chimneys of Cassa Battlo” from *Gaudi’s Chimneys* by John Courter. The group was already splitting up the hand and foot parts of the piece (playing it in duet style instead of solo), and they were getting rid of the bench altogether and standing in front of the keyboard. I was given the perfect part for me: two whole notes on the bottom part at the beginning of the piece. My group consisted of Judy, Margo Halsted, Dave Johnson (president of the GCNA), Ray McLellan, and Linda Dzuris. They were warm and friendly, and laughed a lot in their preparations for the big event. I felt so welcome, and even though I only had two notes, I really did feel like part of the group.

Continued on back cover...
Student Spotlight on Kevin Giroux ’12
Marisa LaFalce

One cold and blustery afternoon, at the start of the spring semester, I sat down in the cozy office in McGraw Tower to interview Kevin Giroux ’12, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences. Kevin is majoring in Economics.

Hi Kevin, thanks for meeting with me. How was your break? It was really nice. We went skiing in Northern Canada for a week, which was really relaxing and fun.

It is your last semester here at Cornell! What are you taking? I’m taking 12 credits, one more Econ class, financial accounting, wines, and an anthropology class. My sister is a freshman and I still had a history requirement and she has all her distribution requirements, so we thought it would be fun to take a class together.

Is it fun having her here at Cornell? Yes. We haven’t had as much time to be as close because of the age range. I was a senior in high school when she was a freshman, an eighth grader when she was in fifth grade, and we went to different schools too. But it’s different here because I get to see her all of the time!

That’s great. Is she going to try out for the chimes too? She got a bunch of fliers to hand out about the competition (to support the cause) but she isn’t actually going to audition.

Senior year. Do you know what you’re going to do? Yes I have a job with Price-Waterhouse-Coopers doing financial advising.

So does that mean you’ll be travelling four-days per week? Yes. I think it’s a good lifestyle when I am young; I get to visit a lot of cities, earning lots of frequent flier miles and hotel points. It should be fun and exhausting.

Did you work for them last summer too? No, I worked with GE in Milwaukee in the Financial Management Program. It was awesome but I wanted to be on the East Coast at least as a home base – and I think this will be more challenging.

Do you have a sector that you will specialize in? I know many consultant roles do. I think I will start in financial services like banks, but hopefully long-term I will be more broad based. They usually structure their consulting as financial services, health care, and everything else. I think it would be nice to work with more diverse companies like GE.

Where will you be located (for your home office)? You are originally from New Jersey right? I will be based out of New York City. I am from right outside the city, in New Jersey, so it will be nice to be near home but I am hoping to live on my own!

Can you believe that four years have passed so quickly? No! Everyone says it will fly by, it’s the best four years… But I didn’t realize it would go this fast - terrifyingly fast. And I’ve been pretty lucky, because I have a plan for the next few years and a lot of people are pretty stressed right now because they don’t know.

Your sister is a freshman here, but what about you? What made you choose Cornell? It’s a funny story: I wanted to go to a musical conservatory for college. I was a serious clarinet, saxophone and flute player (but primarily clarinet). So I planned to go to a conservatory in a big city. Then at the last minute I changed my mind because I wanted to have the flexibility if I changed my focus. I figured if I was at a conservatory focusing on clarinet there weren’t many options if I decided I didn’t want to do that any more.

I had visited Cornell many years ago because I thought at one point I wanted to be an architect so I knew some about it. So then I contacted some folks in the Music Department and ended up getting my Early Decision Application in just in time! It’s worked out well for me.

So, are you still playing the clarinet? Yes, I was in the orchestra for three years, playing a lot of bass clarinet and piccolo clarinet. Last year the conductor asked me if I was going to come back and I decided against it because I knew I’d be stressed with job searching and I was not into the program.

It was a bit of a mistake because I haven’t picked up my clarinet much this fall and they ended up changing the program at the last minute to play one of my favorite symphonies. But it’s a mixed blessing because I’ve gotten to spend more time becoming more involved with the chimes.

You have been more involved this year – especially as the chimes librarian. Would you talk about what you are doing? Yes, the main work is cleaning up the files, scanning and organizing proposed music, and updating the online database. The Chimes Librarian role has also allowed me to spearhead...
the scanning initiative for our music library. The long-term goal is to digitize all of the music in our paper files. Over the winter break I spent some time scanning the “A”s as a prototype. I will work more with Keith Jenkins ’93 this spring but hopefully this will continue as we try to get digital copies of all of our music.

How did you get connected to the Cornell Chimes? You were a sophomore when you tried out, right? Yes, I knew about them freshman year because I had met Sam Birmaher ’10, but I joined a fraternity my freshman year and I didn’t think I’d have time for both. But I promised Sam I’d come back my next year and I did!

I was always intrigued by the bells because on my first visit to Cornell, at 14, we came up into the tower and a chimesmaster was getting ready to play for a wedding concert. That always interested me. But I never imagined that I’d play them one day.

Well, we are glad you’re here! How did you meet Sam? I met him through the Music Department. We met at an Orchestra gathering.

Have you done any arranging or compositions? I’ve only done one arrangement, “Friday” by Rebecca Black. But I won’t be submitting it for proposal! It is not a song that is conducive to the chimes, but its one time debut on campus was cool. Many people heard the concert, and changed their Facebook status as a result, so it was noticed! That was neat.

What pieces do you like to play? I love Keith’s (Jenkins ’93) music. And I love Dick Lee’s ‘41 stuff too. It totally makes sense that the best stuff for the bells is the music that was written by people who played the bells. I do like the popular music, and its requested a lot by visitors, but I found that even with non-bell players or people who don’t know a lot about music, they may request Lady Gaga but then they are floored when you play a KGJ piece because its so perfect for the bells. It is neat to see everyone appreciate those pieces so much.

Even before I became a chimesmaster there was always something that would just really stick out in my mind. There are some really special pieces there (in the files) that just really work. It’s cool to know that everyone (all listeners) can appreciate that.

Clarinet, flute, saxophone, chimes - like all of the chimesmasters, you are very musical. Do you play anything else? I play guitar as well, and piano, although I would not call myself a pianist. That’s about it, I think.

I think that’s plenty! It is fascinating to learn about the musical backgrounds of the chimesmasters because they are so diverse. Yeah. They really are different. It’s cool.

So what do you like to do when you are not playing bells or scanning music?

I do devote a lot of time to studying, which any Cornell student can say. I was treasurer of my fraternity, which was nice to devote that solid time to for that year. I live in a house in Collegetown with seven other guys that I have been good friends with since freshman year, so I spend my down time hanging out with them and relaxing mostly. I love the show Arrested Development so we spend a lot of time hanging out watching that.

It’s Friday, how will you spend your Friday night? Well, this Friday, we are concluding our rush activities. I am in Kappa Sigma fraternity, and this semester we are grappling with a huge pledge class of 26 new guys. We are really excited to have an over-filled frat house next fall.

Wow, that is a big pledge class.

People are really using social media in different ways. To me, it wasn’t a revolutionary idea, I am a huge YouTube fan so it just kind of made sense as something we’d want to do to promote the house.

Is there anything that you still want to do during your final semester as a Cornellian? I have not done many of the “161 things every Cornellian should do,” but my friends and I have a long list in our kitchen of personal stuff we want to do before we graduate. For example: check out breweries and wineries (now that we are all 21); do the pinesburger challenge at the Glenwood Pines. The challenge requires eating four pinesburgers and all of the condiments within an hour!

Yikes! I did a similar challenge in a burger place in my hometown once before. I’m not sure I am up for over a pound of beef but I love a good pinesburger!

Thank you for meeting with me Kevin. Have a great semester! 😊
World Carillon Congress continued...

When our group finished performing and the next group began to play, I could not bring myself to leave the playing cabin. It was too amazing to watch these diverse groups playing, the youngest players next to the oldest, Americans, Australians, Dutch, and Danes. People slid on and off the bench, making room for the next. To listen from the ground, you wouldn’t know that five different people might be playing a piece originally written for one. The recital lasted at least an hour, and I was so honored to play my (two note) part!

Next year’s GCNA will be held in Clemson, South Carolina, June 19-22. The next World Carillon Congress will be in Antwerp, Belgium in 2014. I’ve already started practicing my Dutch…

Dates to Remember

February 6-April 22
Annual chimesmaster competition.

March 17-25
Spring Break; concerts infrequent as most chimesmasters away from campus.

May 5
Classes end, study period schedule begins.

May 25-27
Commencement weekend. Concerts, open house and senior recital.

Late Spring
Look for the release of our newest Cornell Chimesmaster compact disk!

May 28
Summer schedule begins - concerts infrequent.

June 7-10
Cornell Alumni Reunion Weekend - many concerts to be performed. Alumni chimesmasters are encouraged to come back and play!

August 22
Classes begin, regular concerts resume.