



Cornell University The Cornell Chimes

Newsletter of the Cornell Chimesmasters and McGraw Tower

Chimesmasters Head South for GCNA 2007 Crystal Cun '07 and Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, '97

In June, we had the opportunity to attend the 2007 Guild of Carillonneurs of North America (GCNA) Congress at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. As always, it was a fantastic experience. The congress allows student carillonneurs to gain admittance into the guild, and this year's conference included four exam candidates, as well as many recitals by professional carillonneurs. Nothing compares to laying in the grass in gorgeous weather while listening to beautiful music!

The University of the South features a 56-bell carillon, and we jumped on the chance to tour Shapard Tower and play a new instrument. However, in case conquering one

tower wasn't provided ample other bell went on an outing to see the newest States at the time. had finished the before hours part of the postvisited three University, David and an installation each county in at the Bicentennial towers contained



Crystal Cun '07 tries out the carillon at David Lipscomb University while at GCNA.

enough, the congress opportunities to explore instruments. **lennifer** to Ooltewah, Tennessee carillon in the United Meeks and Watson installation about two the group's arrival! As congress activities, we carillons at Belmont Lipscomb University, of 95 bells (representing Tennessee) in 50 towers Mall. Each of the 50 one, two, or three bells,

and they were placed in a large circle and played remotely from a cabin. Wild!

Carillons aside, the conference provided plenty of other learning experiences. We attended the business meetings every morning and a number of interesting talks. There was a presentation on carillonneur Arthur Bigelow, a panel discussion on copyright issues surrounding arranging and publishing music, and a lecture on the impact of the industrial revolution on carillon keyboards (such as the introduction of pneumatic mechanisms and a loss of dynamic control). A number of hands-on workshops were also offered during the week. Jen opted for a class on Finale (a composition software program that we use in the tower), and Crystal went to an arranging workshop, where audience members critiqued submitted pieces and brainstormed ways to improve them.

Aside from the conference seminars and workshops, there were plenty of opportunities to explore the town of Sewanee, and acquaint ourselves with Southern culture and

fellow congress attendees. We tried shape note singing (a notation system traditionally used in Southern congregations), climbed up to the observatory one night, toured the organ at one of the campus churches, and took some hikes around campus on our own. Crystal, along with the more rambunctious carillonneurs, took a tour of the Jack Daniels Distillery, which is actually located in a dry county, although liquor can be sold as a "collectible." We spent a lot of time getting to know student carillonneurs from Chicago, Florida and Yale. Moreover, Crystal was able to parlay her experience at GCNA into attending a carillon recital and dinner at the University of Chicago when she moved there over the summer.

This year, we were fortunate to be able to attend the post-congress events, which included going to a performance at The Grand Ole Opry and spending the night at the Opryland Hotel. We now understand why people say The Grand Ole Opry is an experience not to be missed - the performers were incredible, the audience was enthralled, and the theater was enormous. Watching country veterans and young talent perform a live radio show was like tasting a slice of Americana. Plus, the Opryland Hotel embodied outsize opulence; it was like being in Disneyland. We literally had to follow a map to find our room. The excursion was an amazing way to end our week.

We truly learned a lot and had a wonderful trip. Thank you so much to all of our alumni and friends who makes it financially possible for chimesmasters to attend these congresses as often as we do.

What an experience!





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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

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The 95-bell carillon at the Bicentennial Capital Mall in Nashville, Tennessee. The bells are divided among fifty different towers representing each county in the state.

Chimesmaster's Corner Scott Silverstein '08, Head Chimesmaster

Back when I was a compet, my newfound obsession with the Cornell Chimes led me to the back issues of this newsletter available on the website. I perused them all and wondered if I might ever get to write a "Chimesmaster's Corner". It seemed doubtful – I was an engineer and a member of the heavyweight rowing team, so even if I survived the competition, surely my contributions to the chimes would be minimal. Well, now I'm a senior in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, I still row, and I've weaseled my way into the position of Head Chimesmaster for the 2007-2008 academic year without really knowing where I would find the necessary time. The chimes have a way of absorbing people like that.

Although my name has adorned the marquee at the base of McGraw Tower since May, I really didn't assume the role of Head Chimesmaster until Larrived on campus in mid-August. An internship with a construction company in northern Virginia kept me away from Ithaca last summer, so Wayne Kim '09 graciously agreed to serve as acting Head Chimesmaster during my leave. Wayne did a tremendous job, organizing upwards of twenty wedding concerts and tours throughout the summer. He also accomplished something we have desired for many years: he maintained a regular schedule of three concerts per week for summer session, giving more students than ever a chance to hear the chimes and visit the tower. As Wayne left campus for an internship of his own a week before I arrived, we never physically met to hand off the position. But thanks to his outstanding record keeping and ample communication, I survived the first few hectic weeks of the semester with nary a hitch.

This fall we have the pleasure of working with three new chimesmasters who survived a grueling competition last spring and are talented and enthusiastic as they come. Lily Xie '10 has already performed two wedding concerts. Ryan Fan '10 has a penchant for arranging songs and a knack for making unlikely candidates for bell music (techno?!) sound pretty good. Sam Birmaher '10 is one of the fastest sight-readers I have ever met. Collectively, they have impressed all of the returning players by crashing concerts frequently and working hard to expand their repertoires. (Sam has mentioned that he would like to learn every duet.)

As always, the tower has teemed with activity this year, ranging from an open house for First-Year Family Weekend to a belfry photography session with a couple who got engaged there earlier this year. Because October 31 fell on a Wednesday, and I was off campus for a regatta the previous weekend, we elected to hold our annual Halloween concert mid-week. Visitors came in droves despite the unusual timing. Ten minutes into our concert they filled the playing stand level and clogged the passageways, cholesterol-like, so we resorted to pausing the music for a brief "question-and-answer" session in hope that some would leave.

We concluded by sounding the Great Chord at 11pm rather than midnight, a time change that nearly ruined the traditional serenade by the Big Red Tubas following the concert. Fortunately, a bit of sleuthing courtesy of former Head Chimesmaster and marching band member Crystal Cun '07 revealed that the tubas had planned to arrive at midnight as usual, and a string of last-minute emails cleared up the confusion: to our relief, the instruments came huffing up the stairs just in time. With spooky decorations all over the tower and clever costumes to boot, this year's Halloween concert proved a rousing success.

I am thrilled to be a part of the Cornell Chimes as they thrive, and I owe much to Wayne, Crystal, Marisa LaFalce, and all of the active chimesmasters for helping our endeavors to run like clockwork. People often ask me what additional work I have to do as *Head* Chimesmaster, as opposed to simply chimesmaster. That I have never come up with a satisfactory answer to this question speaks volumes about the support I get from everyone else: I can always count on volunteers to cover concerts, tours, even an open house in my absence. Of course, such dedication comes as no surprise – the chimes have a way of absorbing people like that.

The Cornell Chimesmasters would like to thank our generous alumni and friends for supporting the program over the past year (fiscal year July 2006-June 2007).

Betty Allen '45 Judith W. Balthazar '78 Michael Berkwits '86 Kathryn Kraus Bolks '91

Sean M. Bolks '90

Nancy Bond Robert Bond

Kristin Overgaard Bond '85

Nancy Brown '85, '94 Timothy Brown '84, '92 Carolyn W. Corson '65 David Walter Corson '65

Marcy Dubroff '84 Marjorie Drummond '43

Jane Engel

Alan R. Erickson '03, '04 Robert L. Feldman '66, '75 Susan Goodman Feldman '67

David R. Fister '75 Deborah Lyon Fister Maralyn Winsor Fleming '48

D. Wayne Fleming

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Francis '47 Robert H. Frankenfeld '45 Barbara Allen Grambow 56 Richard C. Grambow DVM '57

Constance C. Haggard '58

Richard A. Haggard '58, '65 Faith G. Hall '46

Harold B. Hall '49 Paul V. Ingalls Jr. '49 Grace V. Jean '00 Carol Jordan

David Jordan

Catherine Longley-Cook '03, '05

Michael B. Maltenfort '91 Lane I. McClelland '70, '73, '74

Carolyn Chauncey Neuman '64

John L. Neuman '63

Judy S. Ogden '71, '75, '77

Mary Baumann Pesaresi '75

Joseph P. Pesaresi '75 Charles D. Phlegar Karen Phlegar Jennifer Porter

Franklin T. Russell '58, '60

Steven J. Santurri '87 William J. Sibal '64 Harold S. Simon '70 Sarah Kirk Stanford David Lyons Stanford '05 Charles E. Swanson '49 Anthony Tappin '49

Mary Tappin

Denise S. Tennen '81 Leaf Turner '63 Mr. Paul G. Varga Christine P. Wang '88



We were thrilled to hear from so many alumni for this edition of alumni notes, including two stories about a carillon in Victoria, British Columbia! We start by saying "congratulations" to some of our recent alums!

In August, Lauren Marino '02 was engaged to Kevin Casey, at the top of the tower. Lauren writes, "It was Kevin's first trip to Cornell and I was completely surprised by the proposal. Now the tower and the chimes have a special place in both of our hearts!"

In April, Lauren's classmate **Waitz Ngan '02** was engaged while being serenaded by the chimes. Waitz moved to Ann Arbor this summer to begin her residency. She reports, "I was able to attend a carillon concert at one of two University of Michigan bell towers, and it just so happened that **Judy Ogden '71, '75, '77** was playing!"

Waitz's fiancée, Adam Schuldt, designed a unique engagement ring that contains bronze from the Cornell bells. Read more at http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/July07/chimesRing.html.

According to **Dick Haggard '58, '65,** the ring was created by the son of his classmate (and sorority sister of Connie) Carolyn '58 and Tom '57, '60 Nytch.

It is a special year for the class of 2002. **Elizabeth (Wallis) Grethen '02** recently wrote to us. "How's it going? I do have an update for the newsletter. I am pregnant, and am due to have a baby boy in February. Things are going well so far, and my husband Dustin and I are very excited!"

We also heard this stork news from Melody (Hung) Wong '03; "Raymond and I are expecting our first baby in March. We don't know the gender yet and have decided to leave it as a surprise. Guess we'll save that bit of information for a later newsletter."

There has been a lot of bell travel lately both near and far. On campus we were thrilled to welcome back so many alumni during Reunion weekend and throughout the summer including Alan Erickson '03, '04, Bob Feldman '66, '75, Bob Frankenfeld '45, Lauren Marino '02, Waitz Ngan '02, Judy Ogden '71, '75, '77, Allegra Schafer '99, and Nancy Lee Sexton '82, '86.

Mary Jane and John Hoare '56, '57 were on campus in July for the memorial concert in honor of Phil Gottling '52, performed by Keith Jenkins '93 and Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, '97.

In August, Karen (Kamprath) Sheh '05 crashed a concert! KMK writes, "I am still in Boston with my husband. We will celebrate our first anniversary on October 28 and life is so good. We were back to visit Ithaca this summer in August and it was peaceful and nice. I saw JLCLM (Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, 97) for a concert. I am currently teaching 7th and 8th grade science in Somerville, Massachusetts. I've also taken up knitting and it's a nice hobby for someone like a chimesmaster - busy hands, you know."

We also had more than twenty alumni present from the classes of 1949 to 2006 for the **Chimes Advisory Council** annual meeting in September. The weekend included guests Tiffany Ng and Jeff Le from the University of Rochester, and Peter Ryde and Michel Allard from St. James Church in Stratford, Ontario. The weekend was filled with bell ringing. But as you'll read our alumni chimesmasters have been involved in ringing bells beyond our fair Cornell!

Bob Feldman '58, '65 writes from Massachusetts, "In August, two of us 'chimers' who regularly play the elevenbell chime at the Unitarian church in Newton gave two evening chime concerts, to our knowledge (the concerts were) a first for the church. About 180 people attended, sitting outside on the church lawn, including Cathy (Jordan) Longley-Cook '03, '05 and Jane Park

'97. We plan to make this an annual event. Also in August, I was delighted to attend a wonderful carillon concert by **Judy Ogden '71, '75, '77** at St. Stephen's church in Cohasset.

"My daughter got married in Providence, Rhode Island in September, and when we were in Ithaca several weeks later, she and her husband came to the tower where I played 'Brightly Dawns Our Wedding Day' for them; the same piece I played for my wife Sue the day of our wedding in Anabel Taylor Hall in 1967."

Lisa Ngai '05 has also been performing! "In September, the Houston alumni club held a fall kick-off event consisting of a carillon concert (performed by yours truly) and an ice cream social. The event was such a hit last year that we decided to do it again. Some rain earlier in the day kept a few people away, but we still had more than twenty attendees ranging from class of '59 to recent grads." In late October, Lisa moved to Scottsdale, Arizona for a promotion with her company TravelCLICK. She's still getting settled, but writes, "I look forward to getting involved with local alumni groups soon. According to the GCNA site, there's a twenty-five-bell carillon that was just installed in Scottsdale...if anyone is traveling to the Phoenix-metro area, please drop me a line at lrn9@ cornell.edu."

Curiously, we received two notes about a carillon in Victoria, British Columbia! **George Ubogy '58** was visiting last summer, and stopped to hear the carillon concert. "Unfortunately, liability dictates a policy of not permitting visitors in the playing area so we had to listen to the music on the street, intermingled with the sounds of traffic. Canadian drivers are well-mannered but their traffic still drowns out a carillon."

Keith Jenkins '93 found similar distractions while visiting Victoria for a conference..."Arriving at the front of the Royal British Columbia Museum, I discovered that the morning chimes

had sounded from the Netherlands Centennial Carillon. With 62 bells, it is the largest carillon in Canada. Luckily, I had arrived on the right day of the week, and would be able to attend the weekly concert. I listened to a wonderful program of music. Unfortunately, the carillon is situated on an increasingly busy intersection of streets, but I found a quieter place to listen in the small park between the tower and the museum.

"Consequently, I didn't discover the concert program that was posted at the base of the tower until the end of concert. So I spent several minutes trying to match up the fanciful titles with my memories of the melodies, while waiting for the carillonneur, Rosemary Laing, to descend the stairs of the tower.

"Rosemary was appointed as the Provincial Carillonneur for British Columbia in 1993. I was able to talk with Rosemary for some time, discussing bells, arrangements, improvisation, and the recent renovations of our respective instruments. I also extended an invitation to visit the Cornell Chimes, if she ever found herself in our part of the continent. It was a fortuitous welcome to the city of Victoria."

Mary Jane and **John Hoare '56 '57** attempted to visit the carillon in the tower of the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in St. Petersburg Russia. Unfortunately they were unable to gain access to the bells. But we do wish them a happy 50th wedding anniversary – the inspiration for their trip!

In another musical note, **George Ubogy** '58 found this interesting tidbit on being tone deaf in *The Harvard Health Letter*, September 2007 (volume 32 #11: pp.6-7). "Being tone deaf tends to be equated with an inability to sing, yet there are plenty of terrible singers who hear music just fine and enjoy listening to it. If the term is used in a stricterand more literal - sense to mean people who can't perceive music, the numbers get smaller... only one in twenty people

is truly tone deaf... The main deficit for such people is an inability to hear differences in pitch... so following even the simplest melody is hard work, if not impossible. In research circles, serious tone deafness is referred to as *amusia*. Both Milton Friedman [a rightwing economist] and Che Guevara are thought to have had congenital amusia, which, if true, might be the only thing they had in common... Some people with amusia seem just as clueless about rhythm as about pitch and melody. If you saw the movie *Motorcycle Diaries* about Che Guevara, you may remember

the scene when he dances a tango while everyone else is doing a mambo..."

Finally, we end on a sad note. Former Cornell Chimesmaster and Cornell employee, **Robert (Bob) Oakley '68, '76** passed away at the end of September. A distinguished law librarian, he received his undergraduate and law degrees from Cornell. This was posted at Georgetown University, where he was a professor of law and director of the Georgetown Law Center, http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/about/oakley/. Our condolences go out to all of Bob's family and friends.

July 23, 2007 - The Dawning of the Age of Aquarius Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, '97, Chimes Advisor

We had a request to play a 15-minute specialty concert for a Cornell staff appreciation event on July 23. Their event theme was "The Age of Aquarius", and they requested pieces that easily associated with the 1960s and '70s. The day before the concert, I was still feeling stumped about what to play. I was arranging "Aquarius" from *Hair* but didn't know what else I was going to play. What to do? I sent out an S.O.S. to the chimes alumni list-serve asking for recommendations. Within a few hours, I had replies from six alumni and enough song suggestions to fill an hour-long concert!

The final concert included my new arrangement of "Aquarius," along with:

G12 - Alice's Restaurant

M21 - Both Sides Now

D7 - Blowing in the Wind

B13 - Hey Jude

W10 - Up, Up and Away

S40 - Sound of Silence

I always enjoy soliciting advice from the chimesmaster alumni list. I can get immediate feedback from chimesmasters spanning over five decades of chimes playing plus great updates and stories about other bell adventures. When the Cornell Chimes got an email recently asking what the name of the gap under a bell was called, I asked the list. I don't think we ever found out the real answer, but we certainly got a lot of "punny" responses!

What is a 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.

Are you a member of the chimes-alum list-serve? If you aren't a member, and you would like to be added, or your email address has changed, send an email to chimes@cornell.edu and we will get you set up so that you too can easily connect with fellow (current and alumni) chimesmasters.

Student Spotlight on SiYi Wang '08 Marisa LaFalce

I had the privilege of having coffee with SiYi Wang this past week. She was able to squeeze in a short study break with me between her 1:10pm concert and her late afternoon class.

Hi SiYi, thanks for finding the time to meet with me. Your schedule sounds pretty crazy these next couple of weeks. What's happening?

I'm taking the Chemistry GREs on Saturday, November 3. So I've got a lot of studying to do between now and then.

Wow, thanks for sparing the time. You are a chemistry major (in Arts and Sciences) right? Do you think your academic studies will help you with the exam?

I am a chemistry major, but actually the GREs ask a lot of trivia, like "what scientist discovered this substance in 1926?" so I've got a lot of facts to memorize.

That does sound tricky. What are your plans for next year? Are you thinking about graduate school?

After I take the GREs I plan to apply to graduate schools. I'd like to start a PhD in chemistry next fall. Chemistry is an interesting field. There are no masters programs, just PhD programs. And today, a PhD is like the base line. Employers are really looking at what your post doc experiences are, after earning your degree.

Would you need to follow such a rigorous path to work in industry, or is that to become a professor?

Both. I think for most chemistry professions it is helpful to have a PhD.

You had an internship this past summer, what did you do? I worked for Merck in New Jersey.

How was that?

It was amazing. Working at Merck was a great opportunity given what they do. They had 300 interns at their New Jersey plant alone!

That is impressive! What did you do?

Well, I can't tell you exactly (one of those secrets where if I told you I'd have to kill you)! But ultimately the experiments we were doing didn't work out.

Is that hard for you? That your research may not work, or may progress so slowly?

No, not really. There is a lot of failure in chemistry, which is something chemists must accept. There is just so much trial and error. Even the successes are not always intentional. Did you know that the scientist who discovered Viagra was actually trying to create a drug for easing hypertension?



Construction workers to Freudian slips! Some of the Cornell Chimesmasters in costume for the annual Halloween concert!

And Valium was being created for another medical purpose too. I enjoy those stories.

That is interesting! So you interned in New Jersey, that's where you are from, right?

Yes. I'm from Plainsboro, right next to Princeton. It was nice to be able to live at home. I am very close to my family.

How did you end up at Cornell? Did you consider Princeton because it was so close?

I did look at Princeton but it is very competitive (to get into), particularly for New Jersey residents. I applied to Cornell, because it was also a great school and because I really enjoyed my visit here. When we visited Cornell we incorporated it into a vacation including dinner at Thai Cuisine.

So I guess I thought Cornell would be like a vacation! But seriously, it has been a very good fit. I am really glad that I came here.

We're glad too! So how then, did you get into music? I moved to the U.S. when I was six (from Shanghi, China). When we first arrived here, I was a real troublemaker. I had a hard time making the adjustment to school in the U.S. My mother's friend suggested that I might be happier (and better behaved) if I got involved in something. So my mother started me on piano lessons.

Our chimesmasters are so musically talented. Do you still play? Did you pick up any other instruments along the way?

I still play the piano some. It's (obviously) harder here, but I do play for my church sometimes. And I also lead a choir as part of a campus fellowship group. So I accompany them. I did try some other instruments, like violin briefly, but I stuck with piano. We moved around a lot (within New

Jersey) and I had nine different piano teachers growing up. Do you have friends from when you were younger having moved around so much?

We kept changing towns and schools, but we were close enough to keep the same church, and I have childhood friends from there. I also had a good friend who also moved in the 3rd grade. We lost touch until we came to Cornell and bumped into each other at a fellowship meeting! That's one of the great things about Cornell –so many connections.

That's a great story. How about the bells, what drew you to them?

I first heard the chimes on the Cornell tour. I heard them and said, "I want to climb that tower". I also played hand bells in high school, so that was an added draw. Originally I thought you played the bells by pulling ropes, so I was a bit disappointed to learn this was not the case! But I do enjoy our chimes...some day I do want to try change ringing too.

Gordon Slater will be hosting the master class the same weekend as the GREs. Have you had a chance to think about what you might play or arrange?

Not yet. But I figure that when I need a study break in the next two weeks, I can work on my arrangement. Actually, I've written about thirty different arrangements for the chimes, arranging is a good study break!

That's a lot!

Yes, but I haven't proposed them all. Five or ten are currently in the proposed file. Not everything I arrange is "proposable".

Do you have a favorite genre that you like to arrange for, or play?

Hmm. I have some favorite pieces, but I found I got a bit tired of them because I played them all the time. I like "God Bless the USA" and "Swan Lake". I am not into pop music as much because I didn't listen to it growing up. Actually I wasn't familiar with the Beatles until I became a chimesmaster! So if a visitor requests a Beatles song, I have a hard time with it unless I've practiced the piece.

I prefer songs that don't have too many notes. I prefer a piece that I can play slower and really concentrate on each note. I do play music from musicals a lot.

So beyond studying chemistry and playing the chimes, is there anything else you like to do in your free time? Free time? (SiYi smiles and has to think about this one for a while). Free time? That's an unusual concept...I have some study breaks here and there...Well, I am involved in a Christian bible fellowship (that's where I lead the choir) and I do enjoy singing, but I am not a pro. And I do research for a professor.

What kind of research are you doing?

I am actually allowed to tell you about my research here (*she smiles*). My professor is a biochemist. He is studying how molecules change when bacteria process them. This has implications for developing pharmaceuticals, etc. So I tag certain molecules.

How do you tag a molecule? I see tagged crows and deer around Ithaca, but molecules are so tiny!

Well, there are several ways. I tag them by adding fluorine, which is easy to detect. So the fluorine attaches to the molecule, and then you can see where and what became of it because the fluorine is easy to spot. Unfortunately fluorine is not very stable and very toxic. But the other substances are even more toxic.

Does it make you nervous working with poisonous compounds?

Not really. I used to be but I'm less so now. You get used to it –although it's still a little unnerving. I just really love the problem solving of chemistry. Did you know most molecules have personalities? They are unpredictable; you don't know how they are going to act or what they are going to say. Most chemists have favorite molecules because of their (the molecules) personalities.

What is yours?

I used to like Strontium a lot, and Cerium because the symbol is Ce! I think I like Hydrogen best.

Well, SiYi, thank you so much for speaking with me. It's been delightful to get to know you better. And I've learned some interesting facts about chemistry. After we finished SiYi headed for her next class – carrying a small plastic briefcase. It contained her wine glasses. She's enjoying her senior year, and so for fun and to learn a little biochemistry, she is taking wine tasting (in the Hotel School) and wine making (in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences) this semester.

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Our Concert Schedule has Changed!

Beginning Sunday, November 4, the Cornell Chimes weekend morning concerts have changed to better accommodate campus events near McGraw Tower; most notably, the time changes for the Sage Chapel services.

Our new concert schedule is:

Monday-Friday 7:45am, 1:10pm, 6pm

Saturday and Sunday 10:10am, 12pm, 6pm

As always, we encourage you to check our online schedule on the web at www.chimes.cornell.edu before planning a visit to campus.

We look forward to seeing you in McGraw Tower!

