

Cornell University The Cornell Chimes

Newsletter of the Cornell Chimesmasters and McGraw Tower

Chimes Master Class with Gordon Slater, Dominion Carillonneur Jennifer Lory-Moran '96, '97, Chimes Advisor

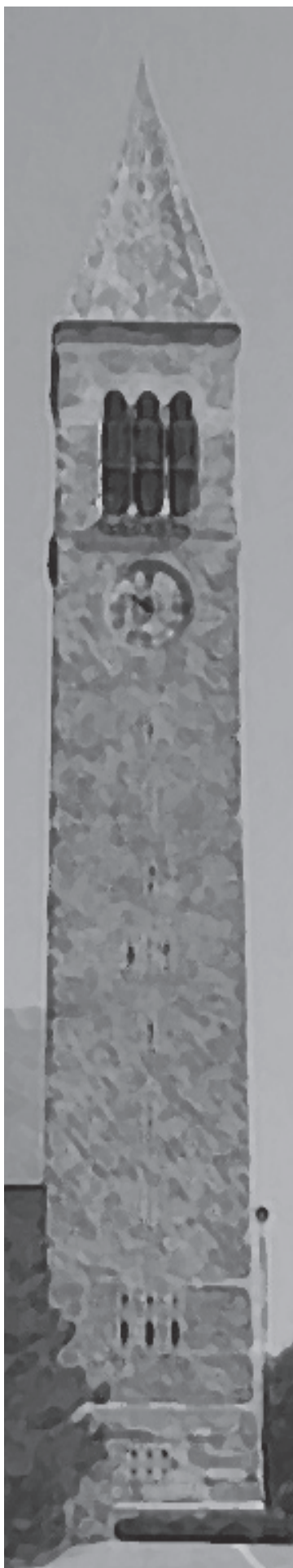
The weekend of November 4 and 5, the chimesmasters had the exciting opportunity to attend a Chimes Master Class with Gordon Slater, Dominion Carillonneur for the House of Commons in Canada. Gordon and his wife Elsa made the trip from Ottawa so that he could share some of his musical expertise and bring an informed outsider's perspective to our program and our playing. All of the chimesmasters came out of the weekend inspired to learn and try many new things.

The visit began Friday night prior to the 6:00 p.m. concert. Gordon took this time to demonstrate an effective method for adjusting the tension between the playing stand levers and the bells and to explain why making these adjustments regularly is so important. Throughout the weekend, all of the chimesmasters were encouraged to practice adjusting the levers when they played. Though the feel of the well-adjusted clavier takes some getting used to, it makes playing dynamics much easier. Since his visit, campus listeners have told me that you can faintly hear the chimesmasters making adjustments before each concert they play—a sign that Gordon says demonstrates to our audience that someone up there “cares.”

After all of the chimesmasters had a chance to play at the evening concert, and to get used to playing in front of our important guest, we all walked down to Collegetown for dinner and dessert at Aladdin's.

On Saturday, we cancelled the morning and afternoon concerts, closed the tower to the public, and put warning signs at the entrances to the libraries telling people the chimes would be playing from 10:40 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for our Master Class. We brought a bunch of folding chairs upstairs and sat around the playing stand. Then, each of us had a 20-minute slot to play for Gordon and hear his feedback. Each of us had chosen one of our best pieces to play for him, and the comments we received were applicable to all of us. The specific points Gordon made were too numerous to describe here (many of us were taking notes!), but they touched on music history, phrasing, rhythm, dynamics, hand position, the harmonic series found in bells, playing stand mechanics, concert programming, bell size, and more. The new information many of us gained was overwhelming. I know that my first concert after the Master Class was disastrous because my brain just couldn't process all of the new things I have to think about now!


After our Master Class, we brought our chairs downstairs to the practice room, where Gordon discussed things to keep in mind when writing new chimes compositions and arrangements. Throughout the weekend, he emphasized his philosophy that the melody should be kept



primarily in the lower notes of the instrument so that the player is not fighting the natural lingering loudness of those larger bells. Since this is exactly the opposite of how most of our arrangements are written, it is probably the most radical idea many of the chimesmasters encountered during the weekend. We don't plan to rearrange every piece in our files, but I am sure that we will all consider this approach whenever we write a new arrangement or play an existing one.

Gordon's visit reminded us of many things, including the uniqueness of our playing stand compared to any other chime or carillon we might find. This uniqueness is a matter of pride for many of us, but it also makes it difficult to go elsewhere for meaningful instruction. We were fortunate that Gordon Slater was able to make the trip down to visit us. Many of the chimesmasters have even mentioned a hope that we could schedule a class like this every two or three years so that every chimesmaster can have this sort of opportunity.

I have four thank yous to mention in closing:

- Thank you to Rob Milliken for inviting me to his Chimer's Seminar in Oshawa, Ontario last fall. That event was a terrific model for us to use in our planning and it is where I met Gordon.
- Thank you to Daniel Zlatin and the Musicality Committee of the Chimes Advisory Council for encouraging us to bring Gordon here to Ithaca for our own class.
- Thank you to everyone who has supported the Monica Novakovic Chimes Program Endowment, your support to this endowment made this experience possible.
- And of course, thank you to Gordon Slater, for coming to Ithaca, giving us all a new vision, and inspiring us to work on our playing both individually and as a group. 



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Some of the Cornell Chimesmasters with Gordon Slater.

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

As usual, it's been an exciting semester for the Cornell Chimes! Continuing old traditions with some new faces in the group and using improved technology have all been part of the excitement. In this short space I will focus on the ongoing and lively relationship between the chimes and campus.

In introducing myself as the new Head Chimesmaster for 2005-06, I'll have to start with how I was very much off campus studying abroad in Europe when my new chimes responsibilities began. Lisa Ngai '05 and I communicated across the Atlantic to make sure that I knew how to handle the major responsibilities of the position. I felt aloof yet joyous when I read the congratulatory email addressed to our four newest chimesmasters, whom I would not see until the fall. In April, the digital connection informed me of the latest "tower caper" incident - a disco ball on top of McGraw Tower, which left me interested but powerless. My always-on electronic connection to campus from Paris and later from Kyiv, Ukraine also helped me keep abreast of what I might find upon my return, and through it I managed to gain a sense of the personality dynamic developing in the group, at least over email. As for those on campus who knew me only through electronic messages, I've been told it was an exercise in patience on everyone's part to have no clue when I would be back on campus to fully take on duties and let Jen Lory-Moran '96, '97 resume her normal tasks as advisor after a hectic late-summer period of playing, scheduling, and waiting for my return.


I still lament not having had the chance to say a proper goodbye to the five chimesmasters and friends who left last

May, but I am uplifted by our current group, which is highly energetic, creative, and inquisitive. We have been actively using new technologies. Our move to an online concert calendar, one of my main connections to the chimes program before returning to campus, continues to serve us well. The other technology, an internal computerized database of our music, appears to have inspired a return to themed concerts, an endeavor spearheaded by Scott Silverstein '08. Since song searching is now reduced to a search query much like one would "Google" a chimes piece, the possibilities abound for creating concert themes from "birds" to "Superman."

The current chimesmasters had a blast while decorating the tower and playing haunted music for Halloween on October 29. This brought enough visitors, costumed and plainly dressed, to block and absorb so much of the incoming sound from the belfry that we could hear only the palpitations caused by the levers hitting felt. We had originally planned to play a two-hour concert beginning at 10 p.m., but this campus that never sleeps had other plans. A week or two before the concert, which fell on First-Year Family Weekend, we learned of visiting performers who wanted three hours of morning quiet on the 29th; we managed to dodge wedding times; we accommodated a special Chorus performance; we negotiated around a late-evening musical event. This was made possible in such a short time by email flurry and online scheduling. I found the coordination to be a rewarding challenge of the chimes

being so integral to the heart of Cornell's campus.

My final instance of Chimes and campus relations required the chimesmasters to do hardly anything at all. The Men of Last Call, one of the student a cappella groups, named their recent performance, "Save the Clocktower." Although it worried some as to the fate of McGraw Tower in a way reminiscent of the 1938 "War of the Worlds" drama, our tower turned out to be safe and sound. The Men of Last Call invited the chimesmasters to the performance in which our institution played an important part of the plot, and they even seated several of us chimesmasters in the front row of a sold-out Statler Auditorium. Briefly, we learned from the performance that Cornell's "chimesmaster," with his "icky" hair and living in his secret clocktower, has been spreading rumors about a plot to steal the tower, a plot which turns out to be a ploy to get the curious and concerned a cappella singers together in the tower so he can "torture" them with a five-hour-long chimes concert. Creativity points have certainly been awarded!

I am glad to see that despite our continued move to more digital technology and the organizational and informational freedom it provides, we seem as tightly-bound a group as ever with a rewarding relationship with the rest of the outstanding campus of which we are a part. I do wish to extend a thank you to all reading this newsletter, because by doing so you show support for our chimes, which we collectively cherish. 

The Cornell Chimes would like to thank our alumni and friends who have generously supported the chimes program over the past year (fiscal year July 2004-June 2005).

Alicia D. Alexander
Elizabeth Finley Allen '45
Judith Balthazar '78
Michael Berkwits '86
Kristin Overgaard Bond '85
Marcy Dubroff '84
Alan R. Erickson '03, '04
Robert L. Feldman '66, '75
Barbara Allen Grambow '56
Richard C. Grambow DVM '57
Richard A. Haggard '58
Constance C. Haggard '58
Faith '46 and Harold '49 Hall
Marjehne A. Hoefer '45
Grace V. Jean '00

Laura Lafontaine '86
Clara Ann Lloyd '49
Michael B. Maltenfort '91
Lauren Marino '02
Lane I, McClelland, '70, '73, '74
Neil '48 and Eleanor '49 Munch
Judy Ogden '71, '75, '77
Kathleen Putnam '44
Franklin T. Russell '58, '60
Steven J. Santurri '87
Sanford P. Shatz JD '85
Harold S. Simon '70
Kristin C. Simpson '98
Charles E. Swanson '49
Leaf Turner '63



Alumni Notes

We have been thrilled to welcome back so many alumni chimesmasters over the past few months. Remember that friends are always encouraged to visit us in McGraw Tower and to play the bells! May brought us flowers but also visits from **Amy Hirshfeld Schultz '92**, **Christy Henzler '00**, **Grace Jean '00** and **Bob Feldman '66, '75**. Bob returns to Ithaca often, but we hear he has recently found new heights to explore. He reported in October that he took a trapeze lesson for a recent birthday!

In May we also said congratulations and farewell (hopefully not for long) to our graduates **Eric Hayes '05**, **Cathy Jordan '03, '05**, **Karen Kamprath '05**, and **Kenny Lim '05**. Reunion weekend two weeks later, brought back many chimesmasters including **Grace Jean '00**, **Mike '55** and **Rose '56 Mage**, **Allegra Schafer '99**, **Sarah (Schneider) Cohen '95** and **Bob Frankenfeld '45**. Bob enjoyed playing the chimes after a 62-year hiatus!

It was a glorious summer in Ithaca and a spectacular time to visit the tower. We welcomed back **Peter Dean '66**, **Melody Hung '03**, and **Waitz Ngan '02** as well as **Kristen Simpson '98** and **Judy Ogden '71, '75, '77**. Kristen and Judy were both back for CAU classes during separate weeks, and filled the campus with chimes music during their free time.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to the alumni and friends who helped us with the Orientation Open House in August including **Erwin Chan '00**, **Leaf Turner '63 (compet)**, **Jen Turney GR '89**, and **Karen Kamprath '05**. Karen recently wrote us from Boston where she is attending graduate school at Harvard, "I've heard bells, and I knew that

Harvard had some but just today I finally made my way up to see them. What I saw was certainly not what I expected! The bells are in an undergraduate dorm. My boyfriend and I waited for some dorm-dwellers to let us into the tower (there's no other way to get in, there is only one 'ring' per week). We climbed until we got to a padlocked door and waited to see what would happen. Two guys came scurrying up the stairs and let us in.

"There were bells all over the place, in a sort of chaos, which was characteristic of the entire experience! The largest bell was significantly larger than Cornell's low C but the top 7-8 small ones were smaller than Cornell's smallest bell. The lowest bell's clapper was not connected to any ropes or levers. The next two bells each had a timber-sized foot pedal that reached up to a platform, where there was a semi-circle of ropes and pulleys attached to the remaining bells.

"About 8 other 'Klappermeisters' arrived, each shoving in earplugs. They arrived with great enthusiasm, greeted us (the only visitors) and informed us that we would help them ring. 'Everybody rings!' One of the Klappermeisters climbed up to the platform underneath their biggest bell and physically began shoving the chunky, rusty clapper back and forth, gaining momentum until it hit the side with a thunderous gong. A second Klappermeister climbed into the other platform (the one with all the ropes) and played a piece...something entirely of his own creation. It was kind of postmodern but mostly it sounded like he just made it up on the spot. After he finished, the others applauded vigorously and another Klappermeister took his place at the stand.

"Then they turned to Alex and I and said 'Go ring!' physically urging us up


onto the platform despite our protests. Alex is not musically inclined, and I was too stunned to even make sense of the instrument. We played something that I assume sounded like what the others had been playing and gratefully got down from the platform. After our brief performance, other players took their turns at the ropes, including 'duets' and some interesting variations involving different Klappermeisters playing as many bells at a time as they could. After the concert ended they shared the bells' history, which is very interesting and can be found at <http://lowell.harvard.edu/Bells/>.

"As we were leaving, they encouraged us to come back anytime. I was amazed by how different the whole experience was from playing at Cornell. It always takes time to get over the feel of different sets of bells, but this experience left me feeling slightly appalled. Perhaps on another day I could go back with a more open mind. **For today, however, I'd have to say that the Harvard bells are like Harvard hockey...not as good as Cornell!**"

We're glad that the Chimes Advisory Council's efforts to encourage outreach to other bells worked for Karen and we encourage others to do the same. The council met in September, when we welcomed the return of many alumni. **Alan Erickson '03, '04** made it back for Homecoming. As did **Nancy Grambow Brown '85, '94** who joined our Homecoming Open House along with her family. It was her first time back since the renovation and her first time playing on the expanded stand!

Phil Gottling '52 wrote, "No bell activity here. We do know that the local chapter of American Guild of Organists will have a meeting next spring at Meeks & Watson, and he will cast a bell while we are there. Also, he will

show us the three manual organs he is installing in his home nearby; organ is a special interest of mine." Phil and Barbara '54 stay musically involved in many ways, often hosting musicians in their home when they come to perform in Cincinnati. And Phil helps with fine audio recording for churches and community choruses.

Finally, it was a great and welcome surprise to see **Courtney (Kimball) Zimmerman '01** come upstairs in the middle of the Master Class on November 5. We're sorry she didn't stop by on a day when she could get in some playing as well! 

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*.

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


When we learn to play the chimes, we are encouraged **not** to look at our hands or feet while we play. The rationale for this is that we don't want to lose our place in the music by looking back and forth between the music and the levers. Well, after 12 years of playing the chimes, I have taken this concept to the next level. I can now play without looking at the levers **or** at the music because now I am constantly looking around me to see what Fiona is into during my concerts!

This semester I am playing on Wednesday nights. My husband Mark has a job where he cannot guarantee that he will be done and on campus by 6:00 p.m. So every week at 5:30 p.m., the tower with a books, crayons, case she needs while I play the We lay out a soft desk and set up for her to play. makes it upstairs concert. But a noteworthy day. kept up her baby three years, I day as "Fiona Chimes Concert



Fiona and I climb bag full of dolls, and snacks, in to amuse herself evening concert. blanket under the a nice cozy place Most weeks, Mark in time for the September 14 was If I had actually book for the last could mark the and Mom's First Alone!"

A quiet moment for Fiona Lory-Moran as she listens to her mother's chimes concert. It was quite an only was Mark experience. Not weren't even any visitors that I could ask to keep an eye on her. I chose short songs that I could end quickly in case she decided to head down or up the stairs while I was playing. Seriously, I mean an *Irish Washerwoman* and *Londonderry Air* kind of concert. And while I was playing I was constantly looking around to see if Fiona was still under the desk or what she might have found to put in her mouth. We started off great. She stayed under the desk eating Goldfish crackers and clapping at the end of each song. But about halfway through the concert I noticed a suspiciously lumpy blanket inching its way across the floor. I started shouting out "Don't go on the stairs!" while playing *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*. The blanket stopped and I was flashed an impish grin from beneath it. "I won't, Mama," she promised. But I am not fooled. This kid has grown up in the tower. She knows how to use my key card to open doors and can tell you which notes to use to play the hour bells. She has found the extra pigeon spikes, the dusters, and the dry erase markers. She's dangerous! Luckily, the blanket returned to the desk, and Fiona emerged and climbed onto a chair. My heart rate returned to normal (somewhat) and I finished the concert uneventfully- **this time!**

Luckily, the times Fiona and I have found ourselves alone during a concert have been infrequent since then. But every week it is an adventure. I am glad that she has grown up in the tower and is so comfortable there, but at times that proves to be both a blessing and a curse! 

Student Spotlight on Olivia Liang '07

Olivia Liang is a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences. She became a chimesmaster in April 2004. On a fall afternoon, in the midst of prelims, I was thrilled that she took the time to speak with me [Marisa LaFalce].

Hi Olivia, thanks for coming. Lets talk a bit about academics, what are you studying?

I am working on a dual major in psychology and economics.

What drew you to those subjects?

Well I began my academic career as a chemistry major, and while I found the classes interesting, I wasn't sure that I wanted to study chem full time. I had always been interested in psychology after taking an introductory course in high school, so when I took a cognitive psych class my freshman year, I knew I wanted to study more. I was drawn to economics because of the practical (job related) implications of the major. I like the balance, psychology appeals to my theoretical interests, and economics is more applied.

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 have a strong interest in marketing, which would blend the psychology and economics fields. But I may not be able to find a position in marketing right out of college, so that is more of a long term goal.

What did you do this summer?

I worked in market research for A.C. Nielsen in Shanghai. It was a great internship. The environment was very exciting, and I enjoyed working with my colleagues. I took a consumer behavior class in the business school last spring which really prepared me for the internship. I learned a lot and had fun. I might go back there again this summer, we'll see.

Good luck on that front. Lets switch gears; can you tell me where you're from?

Yes, I am from Guang Zhou, China.

My geography is not very good, tell me more about your city.

It's one of the bigger cities. It is located in the Canton province, so I speak both Mandarin and Cantonese. It's about a 2-hour drive to Hong Kong, and a 3-hour flight to Shanghai.

3 languages, that is impressive!

Thanks. Actually I am working on French too, but it is not as strong as the others.

You grew up in China, but you went to high school in the U.S. so do you hope to continue a multinational lifestyle after graduation?

Yes. Ideally I would like to live in Hong Kong, which is a blend of East and West and much closer to home!

Growing up in a large city, then coming to the U.S. and living in two relatively small communities, what have you learned?

I went to high school in a very small New England town. Living there, and now in Ithaca, I realize my experiences and ideas are sometimes very different from some of my friends. Ithaca is a very liberal community, and sometimes I am surprised when I speak to them. I guess that it has allowed me to have an open mind. But I have experienced everything from cold snowy winters to incredibly hot summers! This summer in Shanghai the heat was so oppressive.

“That is what made me really come to love the chimes. The chimesmasters were so helpful and I loved their camaraderie. They are such a dynamic and diverse group of individuals.”

Talk about the chimes, what drew you to the bells?

My freshman year I tried out. A friend suggested I try because I had been taking organ lessons at the time. I thought, why not, I'll see how it goes. I ended up working so hard during the competition! I was taking six classes plus practicing 3-hours a day. I thought is it just me? This instrument is so hard! The struggle to master the chimes pulled me in.

Six classes and the competition, did you ever sleep?

A little. Actually I missed my very first concert as a compet because I stayed up so late planning my concert, that when I finally went to bed, I slept through my alarm! Fortunately the chimesmasters were very understanding, and I have had much better attendance since then.

That is what made me really come to love the chimes. The chimesmasters were so helpful and I loved their camaraderie. They are such a dynamic and diverse group of individuals. So much of my playing style I learned from the competition

coaching. Kenny Lim '05 was my first coach, and he taught me so much.

What is your favorite chimes piece(s)?

It is difficult to choose a favorite piece out of so many beautiful songs. I was thinking about it when I had to choose two pieces to play for the Gordon Slater visit. So I picked a piece from Phantom, I love all of the music from *Phantom of the Opera*.

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

I play the organ and piano, and at one point I played a Chinese string instrument, but I haven't played that for many years.

Where do you play on campus?

It has been difficult to find time to play the organ, although I am hoping to take lessons again. The problem is not finding the time to take lessons, but to also find time to practice! There are a couple of pianos in the residence halls, so I can play then.

When you're not studying or ringing bells, how do you enjoy spending your free time?

I sing in an a capella group. It's pretty informal. We write our own arrangements and we sing. We perform annually at the Hong Kong students' culture show and the Chinese students show. It's a coed group called Fantasia. We hope to be more active in the future. I've arranged some songs for them.

Have you had time to arrange any music for the chimes too?

I have not arranged anything official for the chimes. I wrote a couple of arrangements that I never proposed because I did not like the way they sounded. I am hoping to complete a Chinese pop song for the bells, maybe over break.

Anything else?...As if that isn't enough!

I also work for the Social Psychology Lab running experiments and working with graduate students and professors. My role is interesting because I am usually blind to the hypothesis so that I don't bias the participants. But when the experiment results aren't going as planned, and the students or professors need to revise their experiment or their hypothesis, they often ask me for help.


I am also taking another Johnson school class this semester that is very rewarding. It's a very cool environment, very team oriented with a lot of group projects. I like the business school courses because they're an opportunity to

take a more applied look at academic theories. And my teammates are some of the nicest people I've ever met and they are all willing to work with me (an undergrad!) and help me along the way. I feel that I have something new to contribute to the group as well. Maybe next year I'll study a semester abroad. I am thinking about studying in France.

Wow, you're busy, what do you do when you just want to relax?

I like to watch TV and to play video games. I love Play Station 2! I also like to talk to friends. A lot of friends no longer live in Ithaca so it is good to catch up. I have some friends that recently graduated who are doing shows by podcast*, and I've listened a few times. Maybe next year I'll try podcasting too. I worked on a radio show in high school but this would be more high tech!

Olivia, you are truly a fascinating woman. Thanks for taking the time to speak with me!

*Podcasts are downloadable audio programs. Podcasts are produced by news organizations and other media, but independent podcasts have also become very popular. 



A look back...Disease-resistant elms were planted on Tower Road this spring. Photo courtesy of the University Archives.



Our Website has a New Look!

We encourage you to visit the new Cornell Chimes website if you have not done so already:

<http://www.chimes.cornell.edu>

Remember that with the addition of our online schedule this summer, our website is always the place to look for our current concert listings as well as up-to-date information about special events in McGraw Tower.



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