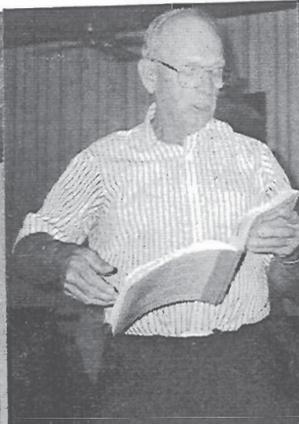


# OLD HARP

200 YEARS OF OLD HARP IN EAST TENNESSEE  
150 YEARS USING THE SWANS' 7-SHAPE SHAPED-NOTE SINGING SCHOOL MANUALS



Number 21  
Spring 1998

*The  
New Harp of  
Columbia  
Newsletter*

**THE NEW HARP OF COLUMBIA CALENDAR — 1997 SINGINGS**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DINNER?</u>	<u>INFORMATION (CONTACT PEOPLE)</u>
March 17	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Yes	Presentation, National Park Service, Gatlinburg Convention Center (O)
March 20	Friday	6:30 PM	No	Presentation, JCA Festival, Laurel Theatre, 16th & Laurel Ave., Knoxville (O)
March 22	Sunday (4)	11 AM	Yes	Epworth Old Harp Singing, Laurel Theatre, 16th & Laurel Ave., Knoxville (D) (H) (S)
March 29	Sunday (5)	12:30 PM	Yes	Presentation, New Salem United Methodist Church, Knox County (O)
April 5	Sunday (1)	11:30 AM	Yes	Oldhams Creek Singing, just off the end of King Branch Rd., Sevier County (N) (P)
April 12	Sunday (2)	5:30 PM	Yes	Easter Singing, Gooch-Mabbs Residence, 4401 Alta Vista Way, Knoxville (T)
April 26	Sunday (4)	2 PM	No	Tuckaleechee Methodist Singing, Townsend (C) (K)
May 17	Sunday (3)	2:30 PM	No	Old College Singing, Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, TN (U) (V)
June 21	Sunday (3)	11 AM	Yes	Beech Grove Primitive Baptist Church Singing, Sevier County (G) (A)
August 16	Sunday (3)	2:30 PM	No	Cades Cove Missionary Baptist Church Singing, Great Smoky Mtns. Natl. Park (C) (K)
September 13	Sunday (2)	2 PM	No	Wears Valley Methodist Church Singing, Hwy. 321 (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County (J) (R)
September 27	Sunday (4)	11 AM	Yes	Headrick Chapel Singing, Hwy. 321 (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County (B) (O)
October 4	Sunday (1)	2:00 PM	No	Valley View Baptist Church Singing, Valley View Rd. off Hwy. 321 (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County (J) (L) (F)
October 10	Saturday	10:30 AM & 12 NOON	No	Museum of Appalachia Homecoming Singing, Norris, TN (B) (O)
October 11	Sunday (2)	2 PM	No	Dollywood Singing (I) (E)
October 25	Sunday (4)	2 PM	No	Maryville College Singing, Blount County (K)
November 25	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Yes	Thanksgiving Eve Pot Luck & Old Harp Singing, Laurel Theatre, 16th & Laurel Ave., Knoxville (D) (H) (S)
December 12	Saturday	10 AM	No	Sugarlands Singing, Sugarlands Visitor Center, Great Smoky Mtns. Natl. Park (I) (E)
December 20	Sunday	TBA	Yes	Epworth Christmas Singing, Location TBA

**VARIOUS**

MONTHLY	SUNDAYS	7 PM	No	Old Harp, 2nd Sunday of each month, usually at Laurel Theatre (downstairs), 16th and Laurel Ave. (S) (O)
VARIOUS	.....	.....	...	Cordova (in West Tennessee) (Q)
SINGING SCHOOLS ARRANGED:	.....	.....	...	Seminars, workshops, 3-day and 10-day classes for basic and advanced music (both 4-note and 7-note notations) (O)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PHONE THE APPROPRIATE CONTACT PERSON(S) — SEE LIST AT THE TOP OF PAGE 3.

## CONTACT PEOPLE

★★★ Unless otherwise noted, area code for phone #s on this list is 423. ★★★

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
(A) Sharee Rich .....	429-5877 .....	829 Gnatty Branch Rd. ....	Sevierville, TN .....	37876
(B) Lois Luebke .....	693-9292 .....	311 Triplett Lane .....	Knoxville, TN .....	37919
(C) John Wright Dunn .....	448-6445 .....	7937 Old Hwy. #73 .....	Townsend, TN .....	37882
(D) Gideon Fryer .....	524-3136 .....	509 11th St. #2006 .....	Knoxville, TN .....	37916
(E) Martha Graham .....	453-3276 .....	210 Conner Hts. Rd. ....	Pigeon Forge, TN .....	37863
(F) Luke Headrick .....	453-2407 .....	3007 Headrick Dr. ....	Sevierville, TN .....	37862
(G) Shirley Henry .....	453-5983 .....	1850 Little Cove Rd. ....	Sevierville, TN .....	37862
(H) Terry Faulkner .....	584-3659 .....	4178 Ridgeway Rd. ....	Knoxville, TN .....	37919
(I) Reford & Velma Lamons .....	453-4581 .....	1418 Jay Ell Rd. ....	Sevierville, TN .....	37862
(J) Henry Lawson .....	453-7638 .....	3538 Wears Valley Rd. ....	Sevierville, TN .....	37862
(K) Tom & Nan Taylor .....	984-8585 .....	603 Court St. ....	Maryville, TN .....	37803
(L) Bruce Wheeler (weekdays) .....	974-5421 .....	P.O. Box 1049 .....	Pigeon Forge, TN .....	37863
(N) David J. Wilson .....	453-0241 .....	2453 Middle Creek Rd. ....	Pigeon Forge, TN .....	37863
(O) Larry Olszewski .....	584-6633 .....	1232 Forest Brook Rd. ....	Knoxville, TN .....	37919
(P) Veta King .....	428-1375 .....	313 Wickcliffe Court .....	Sevierville, TN .....	37862
(Q) Joel Kasserman .....	(901) 756-6184 .....	1608 Stable Park Court .....	Cordova, TN .....	38018
(R) Warren Massey .....	453-8286 .....	3032 Ogle View Rd. ....	Sevierville, TN .....	37862
(S) Kathy Jones .....	691-8678 .....	9121 Garrison Rd. ....	Knoxville, TN .....	37931
(T) Bill Gooch, Meg Mabbs .....	522-0515 .....	4401 Alta Vista Way .....	Knoxville, TN .....	37919
(U) Carroll L. Ross .....	745-4505 .....	P. O. Box 1356 .....	Athens, TN .....	37371
(V) Sara Hamilton (weekdays) .....	745-7504 .....	TN Wesleyan College .....	Athens, TN .....	37371

## THANK YOU'S

We would like to thank all the contact people for their input in getting the schedule finalized, as well as Kate Clabo and Ann Strange. Ann also has spent time keying in the text and proofreading articles. Sharon and Allan Hjerpe are still with us in East Tennessee and did the layout, formatting, editing and final proofreading. Thanks go to Zurma Caldwell, Ann Strange, Veta King, Judy Gast, Nancy Dubois and others, for their photo contributions.

We must thank Brent Cantrell, the new director of Jubilee Community Arts, for his support of Old Harp Singing. Also Karan Dotson of JCA for maintaining our mailing list and for redirecting inquiries on Old Harp.

We would also like to thank Al Wishart, who runs a van service to Sevier County, for volunteering to provide transportation to the Singings. We may still take him up on it in the future.

And once again, many thanks to Debbie Billings and Graphic Creations for the discounts in the printing of the *Old Harp Newsletter*.

For all your printing needs, we recommend Graphic Creations, 1809 Lake Avenue, Knoxville (1 block off Cumberland, behind Wendy's), phone (423) 522-6221.

## SIDE NOTES

- The Epworth Old Harp Singers usually meet at 7 P.M. at the Laurel Theatre on the 2nd Sunday of each month. There may be some changes due to concerts or Singings. For information, call Kathy at (423) 691-8678 or Larry at (423) 584-6633.

- Joel Kasserman is interested in singing Old Harp in Cordova, TN. For information call Joel at (901) 756-6184.

- Balkan Singing is held weekly in Knoxville, TN. Call Meg Mabbs at (423) 522-0515.

- Christian Harmony is sung in NC and GA (various dates). Willie Israel puts out a newsletter. Call her at (704) 254-1330.

## UPCOMING SINGINGS — 1998

### PRESENTATION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE — March 17, 6:30 P.M.

This presentation will be at the Gatlinburg Convention Center. Starting time for the presentation is 6:30 P.M. Old Harp Singers will be treated to dinner at the "Taste of the Smokies" Buffet, which is being held at the Convention Center from 6 P.M. to 9 P.M.

### JUBILEE FESTIVAL PRESENTATION — March 20, 6:30 P.M. (Friday)

At the Laurel Theatre, 16th and Laurel Ave. in Knoxville. It is a tradition to open the festival with Old Harp singing in a square to introduce people to the music and to the Old Harp Singers. This should last about an hour. We'll invite the community to come back to sing with us on Sunday. For more information, call Larry at (423) 584-6633.

### EPWORTH OLD HARP SINGING — March 22, 11:00 A.M.

This annual singing at the Laurel Theatre, 16th and Laurel Ave. in Knoxville, starts with singing at 11:00 A.M., then a potluck at 12 NOON and singing again at 1:00 P.M. Come for the day of singing or just for part of it. For more information, call Gideon at (423) 524-3136; Terry at (423) 584-3659; or Kathy (423) 691-8678.

### PRESENTATION, NEW SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH — March 29, 12:30 P.M.

The starting time for this presentation will be 12:30 P.M. A covered dish dinner will be provided. Singing will be after dinner. Address is 2417 Tipton Station Road, Knoxville.

From Alcoa Hwy., take Gov. John Sevier Hwy. Turn right on Martin Mill (traffic light). Turn left on Tipton Station Road. At intersection of Tipton Station and Twin Creek Rd., look NE to cemetery and church.

From Maryville, take Maryville Pike. Cross river into Knox County. Turn right on Tipton Station Rd. to intersection with Twin Creek Rd.

From Sevierville, take Chapman Hwy. Turn left on Tipton Station Rd. at traffic light (Herdon Chapel Rd. goes right). Go past South Doyle High School to intersection with Twin Creek Rd.

Maps will be available at the Epworth Old Harp Singing on March 22. For more informa-

tion, call Larry at (423) 584-6633 or pastor Glenn Patterson at (423) 577-0125.

### OLDHAMS CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING — April 5, 11:30 A.M.

Daylight Savings Time begins today, so remember to reset your clocks. This Sunday singing will be hosted by Hal Wilson. The church is located off Hwy. 441, south of Pigeon Forge. Turn east on King Branch Road and take it to the end. Turn right at Boogertown Road, go about 100 yards, and the church is on the left.

We will break for dinner at 12:30 P.M., so please bring a covered dish. For more information, call David Wilson at (423) 453-0241 or Veta at (423) 428-1375.

### EASTER SINGING — April 12, 5:30 P.M.

This singing, held at the home of Bill Gooch and Meg Mabbs, 4401 Alta Vista Way, Knoxville, starts with a potluck and the singing immediately after. Prepare yourself for "Easter Anthem" again this year—everyone at least look at your part. For more information, call (423) 522-0515 to talk to Bill or Meg.

### TUCKALEECHEE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SINGING — April 26, 2:00 P.M.

This singing is hosted by John Wright Dunn and Tom Taylor. It is the closing event for the Blount County Dogwood Arts Festival. Going into Townsend from Maryville on Hwy. 321, turn right where the sign indicates "to Tuckaleechee Caverns." Go about a mile; the church is on the left. For more information, call John at (423) 448-6445 or Tom at (423) 984-8585.

### OLD COLLEGE SINGING — May 17, 2:30 P.M.

This singing takes place in the Old College Center of Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, TN. We have moved the singing to the upstairs to be able to include the visitors comfortably. Refreshments are brought in after the singing. For more information, call Carroll Ross at (423) 745-4505 or Sara Hamilton (weekdays) (423) 745-7504.

### BEECH GROVE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING — June 21, 11:00 A.M.

This is an all-day affair with a potluck. Shirley Henry will turn the church over to Sharee Ann Rich promptly at 11:00 A.M. There is a

## UPCOMING SINGINGS (CONT'D)

feed at 12 NOON and singing again at 1:00 P.M. Heading south out of Pigeon Forge on Hwy. 441, take the first right, onto Caney Creek Road. Go about 2 miles and the church is on the left. For more information, call Shirley at (423) 453-5983 or Sharee at 429-5877. (This is Father's Day, and a good place to take Dad.)

### CADES COVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING — August 16, 2:30 P.M.

This is the third church on the Cades Cove Loop Road in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This singing is being hosted by John Wright Dunn. Please give yourself an extra hour of travel time to cope with the camera-toting tourists on safari shooting the wildlife in Cades Cove. For more information, call John at (423) 448-6445 or Tom at (423) 984-8585.

### WEARS VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SINGING — September 13, 2:00 P.M.

This church is located on the north side of Wears Valley Road, about 2/3 of the way from Pigeon Forge to Townsend. Henry Lawson will host. For more information, call Henry at (423) 453-7638 or Warren at (423) 453-8286.

### HEADRICK CHAPEL SINGING — September 27, 11:00 A.M.

Located just across the Blount County line in Sevier County on Hwy. 321. Morning singing starts at 11:00 A.M., potluck dinner at 12 NOON, with singing afterwards until about 4:00 P.M. Please note: A Port-a-Lette will be provided.

For more information, call Lois at (423) 693-9292 or Larry at (423) 584-6633.

### VALLEY VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING — October 4, 2:00 P.M.

This church is located about 10 minutes east of Wearwood Schoolhouse. There is a large sign on Hwy. 321, indicating the turn for the church. Turn south at the sign; the church is at the fork in the road. Bruce Wheeler, Henry Lawson and Luke Headrick are the hosts. For more information, call Luke at (423) 453-2407 or Henry at (423) 453-7638 or Bruce (week-days) at (423) 974-5421.

### MUSEUM OF APPALACHIA HOMECOMING SINGING — October 10, 10:30 A.M. & 12 NOON

The first singing usually starts sometime

around 10:30 A.M., the second a little after 12 NOON. We sing at the old log church, sharing time with the do-re-me singers from Kentucky. For more information and tickets, call Larry at (423) 584-6633 or Lois at (423) 693-9292. (We usually have the tickets available at the Headrick Chapel Singing.)

### DOLLYWOOD SINGING — October 11, 2:00 P.M.

This Singing is held at the Chapel in Dollywood. Reford Lamons and Martha Graham are the hosts. Please bring your harp book as it is your free pass into Dollywood. Allow extra time to take the tram from the parking area to the front gate and to walk to the Chapel. For more information, call Reford at (423) 453-4581 or Martha at (423) 453-3276. We thank Bill Cody for this yearly invitation.

### MARYVILLE COLLEGE SINGING — October 25, 2:00 P.M.

This singing is hosted by Tom Taylor. We sing in the Old Post Office located in the center of the Maryville College campus. This singing will be hosted by Tom and Nan Taylor. For more information, call Tom at (423) 984-8585.

### EPWORTH THANKSGIVING EVE SINGING — November 25, 6:30 P.M.

This annual event is held Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving at the Laurel Theatre, located at 16th and Laurel in Knoxville. Turkey is provided. Gideon Fryer is the host for this singing. For more information, call Gideon at (423) 524-3136; Terry at (423) 584-3659; or Kathy at (423) 691-8678.

### SUGARLANDS VISITORS CENTER SINGING — December 12, 10 A.M.

Sugarlands Visitors Center is in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Hwy. 441, just outside of Gatlinburg. Reford Lamons will host with Carl Whaley bringing out the shaped-noted hymnals for Christmas carols in the last half hour. We will sing till noon. For more information, call Reford at (423) 453-4581 or Martha at (423) 453-3276.

Glenn Cardwell has retired from being Chief Ranger at the Visitor Center and is now President of the Great Smoky Mountains Historical Society. He can be reached by writing to him at 540 Emerts Cove Road, Sevierville, TN 37876-9124.

## IN MEMORIAM

We wish to remember those who have passed on who were Old Harp Singers. The following names have been submitted:

- Kates Ogle - Gatlinburg
- Granville Pate - Sevier County
- Bates Elliott - Knox County Old Harp Singer  
(Caney Creek)
- Thelma Teffeteller - Knox County Old Harp Singer
- Art Godfrey - Knox County (Little Greenbrier)
- Russell Whitehead - Cades Cove
- Mae & Burl Adams - Wears Valley
- Mrs. Alred - Sevier County
- Willie Cardwell - Sevier County
- Otha Henry - Townsend
- Will Garner - Sevier County
- Frank Carter - Knoxville
- Helen Hutchinson - Knoxville
- William Jasper Lawson - Wears Valley
- J. Newton & Viola Lawson - Wears Valley
- John O. Clabo - Wears Valley
- T.W. McCarter - Wears Valley
- G. West & Sally King - Wears Valley
- Thomas & Hettie Headrick - Wears Valley
- Sherman & Ina King - Wears Valley and Illinois
- Haskew Trevena - Pigeon Forge
- Thomas Trevena - Knoxville
- John Rule - Sevier County
- Levator Walker - Sevier County
- Ruby Walker - Sevier County
- Jimmy Gibson - Sevier County
- Mr. Keeler - Sevier County
- A.B. Shields - Sevier County
- A.J. Lawson - Townsend
- Will Lawson - Townsend
- John G. Dunn - Townsend
- Walter Clabo - Townsend
- Lynn & Alice Wells - Maryville
- Sam Tipton - Cades Cove and Maryville
- Newman Garner - Maryville

A note about Bates Elliott: Mr. Bates Elliott, the last member and president of the Knox County Old Harp Singers passed away last November. He would pick two songs about two weeks ahead of time and, with the use of his jeweler's magnifying glass, memorize them

and lead those two tunes at the next singing he could catch a ride to. He had a warm and gentle sense of humor. We will miss him.

We hope to have a more complete list of names in the fall newsletter. Please send additional names to: Old Harp Newsletter, c/o Jubilee Community Arts, 1538 Laurel Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916-2016.



## AN INTERVIEW WITH SHAREE RICH

by Doris De Spain

Old Harp Singings will continue if it is handed down in the family as described by Kate Clabo and her granddaughter Sharee. In talking with Sharee, she told me that she has been singing the shapes since she was six years old. Her great grandfather, William Anderson Clabo, was a singing teacher and the custom of singing was continued by family members.

Sharee's friends at high school know about the singings and consider them "cool!" She plans to continue singing as she moves on to college and beyond.

She recently presided over a singing at Beech Grove Primitive Baptist Church and admits to feeling a little intimidated by this. Encouragement from family and friends has helped her.

One of the reasons for this interview is to show other Old Harp singers how important it is to start singing with young family members and friends so that they can become part of the tradition. Sharee often sings at home by herself and suggests The Promised Land (page 47), Morning Trumpet (page 99) and Spring (page 170) as favorites.

Keeping her grades up, Sharee hopes to continue her education at UTC, UTK, or Berea.



Rochester: 1991. 2nd Sun., 2-5pm. Contact Chris Haller, 716-387-9570; or Nancy Crawford, email: nlc\_wbst129@xerox.com  
\*West Islip, LI: 1991. Call Frederick Rasenberger, 516-671-0459.

#### NORTH CAROLINA

Chapel Hill: 1991. 2nd Sun., 2-4pm. Contact Matt Cartmill, 919-493-8519, e-mail: matt\_cartmill@baa.mc.duke.edu  
Raleigh: 1991. 4th Sun., 2-4pm. Contact Lynda Hambourger, 919-781-3596; or Becky Hart, e-mail: Becky\_Hart@unc.edu  
Winston-Salem: 1991. 3rd Sun., 2-4pm. Contact Cleve Callison, 910-760-2822, e-mail: callison@wfu.edu

#### OHIO

Ada: 1991. Occasional meetings. Contact: Kathy & Charles Knecht, 419-634-4916, e-mail: k-knecht@onu.edu.  
Cincinnati: 1991. 2nd Sun., 4:30-7:30pm. Call John Bealle, 513-861-1137, e-mail: jbealle@iso.cin.ix.net  
Columbus: 1991. 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sun., 4-6pm. Call Fred Todt, 614-291-0282, e-mail: todt@battelle.org  
Cleveland metropolitan area: 1991. 2nd & 4th Sun. Contact Charles Wells at 440-774-1926, e-mail: charles@freude.com.

#### OREGON

Eugene: 1991. 2nd & 4th Thurs. Contact Jean Murphy, 503-342-4131, e-mail: murphyj@oregon.uoregon.edu  
Forest Grove: 1991. 1st Sun., 3-5pm. Call Thalia Stewart, 503-357-056  
Portland: 1991. 2nd & 5th Sun., 3-5:30pm. Call Kate Moore & John Kellermann, 503-230-2072, e-mail: jk@teleport.com

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Harrisburg: 1991. 4th Sat., 3-5pm. Call Jess Hayden, 717-932-2348, or Dave Walker at 717-566-9237.  
Philadelphia (Havertown): 1991. 2nd Fri., 7:30-9:30pm. Call Marian McKenzie at 610-896-1565, e-mail: mmckenzi@haverford.edu  
Reading: 1991. 3rd Sun., Sept.-June, 7-9pm. Contact Betty Hanf, 610-582-5924, or Doron Henkin, e-mail: DHenkin@aol.com  
\*Wilkes-Barre (Dallas): 1991. Call David Martin, 717-333-4007.

#### TENNESSEE

Knoxville: NHC. 2nd & 5th Sun., 7pm. Contact Gideon Fryer, 423-577-2272, or Kathy Jones, e-mail: 703.13.3627@compuserve.com  
Nashville: 1991. 1st Sun. & 3rd Thurs., 6-8pm.  
Contact Timothy Reynolds, 615-646-6485; or David Carlton, e-mail: carltdod@ctrvax.vanderbilt.edu

#### TEXAS

Austin (Travis Co.): 1991. CSH. Fri. before 2nd & 4th Sun., 7-9pm. Contact Gaylon Powell, 512-258-7080, e-mail: gaylon@flash.net  
Grand Prairie (Dallas Ft. Worth area): 1991. 3rd Sat., 1-3pm.  
Call Bruce or Beverly Coates, 214-476-9937.  
Houston: 1991. CSH. Varies. Call Charles Whitmer, 281-367-6260.  
Nacogdoches: CSH. 1st Sun., 2-4 pm (not held in Nov.). Call Robert Vaughn, 903-863-5379.

#### VERMONT

Brattleboro: 1991. NH95. Monthly, usually Sun., 1-5pm. Contact Peter Amidon, 802-257-1006, e-mail: peteram@sover.net

Burlington area: 1991. Monthly on Sundays, 5pm. Contact Marti Sterin, 802-849-2208, e-mail: samrah@together.net  
Derby Line: 1991. 2nd Sun., 2-4pm. Contact Chuck and Cathy Neville, 819-562-8727; e-mail: cneville@InterLinx.qc.ca  
Glover: 1991. 2nd Tues., 7pm. Call Elka Schumann, 802-525-6972, or contact Linda Wells by e-mail: craftsburyp@do1.st  
Montpelier or Plainfield: 1991. NH95. Usually 1st Sat., 3-5pm.  
Contact Marek Pyka, 802-456-1120, or Larry Gordon, e-mail: lgornton@plainfield.bypass.com  
Norwich: 1991. 3rd Thurs., 7-9:30pm.  
Call Corlan Johnson, 802-649-5245.  
Springfield: 1991. 2nd, 4th & 5th Fri., 7-10pm.  
Contact Walt or Pat Colteryahn 802-885-9521, or Daniel Keebler, e-mail: keeblerd@vermontel.com

#### VIRGINIA

Berryville-Winchester area: 1991. 1st Sat., 4pm. Contact John deRe & Kelly Macklin, 540-955-2660, or Bob Hall, e-mail: rahall@fbm.net  
Metropolitan DC: See District of Columbia.  
Richmond: 1991. 3rd Sat., 2-5pm. Contact Blake Morris, 804-288-8206; or Stephen McMaster, e-mail: smdar19@mail.idt.net

#### WASHINGTON

Bainbridge Island: 1991. Sun., call for dates. Contact M. J. Linford, 206-842-2084, e-mail: mjlinford@bainbridge.wednet.edu  
Okanogan Valley: 1991. 2nd & 4th Tues., 7-9pm.  
Call Mary Lassila, 509-826-5299.  
Renton: 1991. 4th Sun. Contact David Hough & Katharine O'Hara, 206-451-0109, David Hough's e-mail: kodahl@halcyon.com  
Seattle: 1991. 2nd Sun. Call Jack Lofton, 206-783-4508.

#### WISCONSIN

Madison: 1991. 1st & 3rd Sun., 3-5pm. Call Jim Page, 608-255-6861, e-mail: jimpp@uwfound.wisc.edu

#### SINGINGS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

##### CANADA

Calgary, Alberta: 1991. Second Sundays at 2:30pm. Contact Mryka Hall-Beyer, 403-284-1621, e-mail: mhallbey@acs.ucalgary.ca  
Halifax, Nova Scotia: 1991. NH. early local hymnody. Sun. evenings. Not a traditional singing. Contact Marcus Merrin, e-mail: dowland@auracom.com  
Lennoxville, Quebec: 1991. 1st Mon., 7:30-9pm. Contact Chuck and Cathy Neville, 819-562-8727; e-mail: cneville@InterLinx.qc.ca  
Ottawa, Ontario: 1991. Tues. nights except Jul.-Aug.  
Contact Shelley Posen, 613-235-9947, e-mail: sposen@afrn.org

##### ITALY

Bologna: Shape-note and other music. Twice weekly. Not a traditional singing. Federico Galloni, telephone +39-51-455219; e-mail: coroarino@iperbole.bologna.it

##### UNITED KINGDOM

Bolton, Lancashire, England: 1991, NH. 1st Sat. Noon-4pm. Contact Judy Whiting, 01204 309709, e-mail: jw5@seh1.acs.bolton.ac.uk  
Oxford, England: 1991. NH. 3rd Sunday, 7:30-9:30pm. Contact Dick Wolff, +44 1865 511784, e-mail: dickwolff@patrol.i-way.co.uk

## Shape Notes Regular Local Singings List

by Robert Hall & Ella Wilcox  
1/18/1998

This is a list of shape-note singings that take place four or more times a year and that draw singers from their immediate locale. No convention or annual singing is listed. We add and correct listings as we receive them. Times and days listed should be considered approximate. A more detailed list is printed annually in the *Shape Notes* newsletter. It is also available on Warren Steel's World Wide Web page (URL: <http://www.msor.olemiss.edu/~mudws/>). A single printed copy of this list may be obtained by writing us at the address below. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. An asterisk (\*) by a listing indicates a place where there is no singing but there is a desire to start one. *Tunebooks used are designated by the following codes:*

CH *Christian Harmony*, Deason-Parris Revision  
NHC *New Harp of Columbia*  
NH *Northern Harmony*  
NH95 *Northern Harmony*, 1995 Edition  
NHH *Northampton Harmony*  
CSH *Sacred Harp*, Cooper Revision  
1991 *Sacred Harp*, 1991 Revision

#### SINGINGS IN THE UNITED STATES

##### ALABAMA

Carbon Hill, Walker County: 1991. Sat. before 2nd Sun., 6pm.  
Call Travis and Margaret Keeton, 205-697-5268.  
Cullman: 1991. CSH. 1st Wed. Call Henry Guthery, 205-737-9277.  
Fayette: 1991. 2nd Sun., 6pm. Call Larry Ballinger, 205-932-3858.  
Haleyville (Winston County): 1991. 1st Sun., 6pm.  
Call Josie Hyde, 205-486-5625.  
Hemagar: 1991. 1st Sun. night, Oct.-Apr. Contact Coy Ivey, 205-657-4681, or David Ivey, e-mail: ivey@asc.edu  
Huntsville: 1991. 1st Fri. in Feb., Apr., Aug., Nov., 7-8:30pm.  
Contact Linton Ballinger, 205-830-5301, or David Ivey, e-mail: ivey@asc.edu  
Iber: 1991. 1st, 2nd & 4th Sun. night, Oct.-Mar. Contact Terry Wootten, 205-632-3830, e-mail: Wootten4FA@aol.com.

##### ALASKA

Fairbanks: 1991. CSH. Sun., 7pm. Contact William Walters, 907-479-3796, or Robert Sullivan, e-mail: rsrbs@aurora.alaska.edu

##### ARKANSAS

Big Fork: 1991. 1st Sun., 2:30-5pm. Contact Verla Huckaby, 501-394-6135, e-mail: EddieVerla@aol.com

If your singing is not included or if any information is incorrect, please notify us. Our address is 7025 Jefferson Avenue, Falls Church, VA, 22042-1839. Our e-mail address is raball@brim.net. Call Ella Wilcox at 1-800-336-3768, between 9am and noon Eastern Time, or call us at home at 703-204-1532. Please call our home before 9pm Eastern Time.

Mena: 1991. 2nd & 4th Thurs., 6:30-8pm. Contact Verla Huckaby, 501-394-6135, e-mail: EddieVerla@aol.com

#### CALIFORNIA

Berkeley, Oakland: 1991. 1st Sun., 4:30-6:30pm. Call Vicki Solomon, 510-763-7688.  
Los Angeles: 1991. 1st Sun., 3:30-6pm. Contact Stephen & Mary Rose O'Leary, 213-254-7707, e-mail: soleary@ainitak.usc.edu  
Los Angeles (Mar Vista): 1991. Sat. before 3rd Sun., 3-5:30pm. Call Sue Turpin at 310-390-4165.  
Palo Alto: 1991. 2nd & 4th Sun., 11am-1pm. Call Paul & Lisa Ralston, 415-948-4112.  
Paso Robles: 1991. Thurs., 7:30-9:30pm. Contact John Warren, 805-237-9227; e-mail: kokopei01@aol.com  
Sacramento: 1991. 1st Sun., 2-5pm. Contact: Susan Jones & David Wright, 916-739-8906, e-mail: davesue@calweb.com  
San Diego: 1991. Sun., 4-6pm. Contact Carla Smith & Jerry Schreiber at 619-544-0432, email: drxox@aol.com  
San Francisco: 1991. 3rd Sun., 4:30-6:30pm. Contact Carolyn Deacy, 415-585-4773, e-mail: deacy@sirius.com  
Santa Barbara: 1991. First Saturday, 7:30-10pm. Contact Tom Ostwald, 805-965-4707; e-mail: ostwald@math.ucsb.edu  
Santa Cruz: 1991. Tues., 7:30-9pm. Contact Shelley Phillips, 408-427-2980, or Tammy Heinsohn, e-mail: tammycasa@aol.com  
Yuba City/Marysville: 1991. 4th Sun., 5-8:30pm. Contact Anneliese Blanchard 916-751-1415, e-mail: 102075.3265@compuserve.com

#### COLORADO

Boulder: 1991. 2nd Fri., 7-9pm. Call 303-447-9379.  
Denver: 1991. Sun. after 4th Fri., 3:30-5:30pm. Call John or Jean Schaffer, 303-234-1729.  
Fort Collins: 1991. 1st Fri., 7-9pm. Contact Sandy or Donald Klein, 970-493-2012, e-mail: dakspek@lamar.colostate.edu  
Loveland: 1991. Sun. after 3rd Fri., 3-5pm. Contact Sandy Hill, 970-669-6450, e-mail: sandy@frit.com

#### CONNECTICUT

Brooklyn: 1991. 3rd Thursday 7:30-9:30pm. Contact Andrew Watt, 860-928-0141, e-mail: arvonn@neca.com  
Middletown: 1991. NH, new compositions. 1st Sun., 7-9pm. Contact Neely Bruce, 860-347-3003, e-mail: nbruce@wesleyan.edu  
Newtown, elsewhere: 1991. Monthly on Sun., 3pm. Call Susan Garber, 860-583-0841.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Metro area: 1991. CH, NH. 4th Sun., 4-8:30pm. Contact Steven Sabol at 301-897-5274, e-mail: sabol@his.com. After 1/25/98, contact Frank Evans, 703-820-6057, e-mail: fevans@erols.com.

#### FLORIDA

Gainesville, Micanopy: 1991. 3rd Sun., 3:30-5:30pm. Contact Pat Morse, 904-377-8061, or Gary Kirkland, e-mail: Umainguy@aol.com.  
Largo: CSH. First Sunday, 1-3pm. Contact Joanne Pennington, 813-932-5865, e-mail: Lizpenn1@aol.com  
Tallahassee: CSH. Fri. before 3rd Sun., 7pm except Jun.-Aug. & Dec. Contact Alice Bejnar, 850-656-2027, or Elizabeth Lobato, e-mail: edlrmi@freenet.scri.fsu.edu

#### GEORGIA

Alpharetta: 1991. Fri. before 3rd Sun. except Jun.-Dec., 7:30-9:30pm. Call Faye Pettis, 770-889-1703.  
Athens: 1991. 1st Fri., 7:30-9:30pm. Call Lee Rogers, 706-795-5472. Decatur: 1991. First Thursday, 7:30-9:30pm. (Not in Dec.) Contact Doug Allison, 404-321-4992, e-mail: dallison@mindspring.com

#### ILLINOIS

Charleston-Mattoon: 1991. Thurs., 7:45pm, except on holidays. Call Don Bardsley, 217-348-8295.  
Chicago: 1991. Sun. twice monthly, 4-6pm. Call 773-276-HARP, or Ted Mercer, 773-862-6477.  
New Salem (Petersburg): 1991. 2nd & 4th Sun., 1:30pm. Contact Peter Ellertsen, 217-793-2587, e-mail: dedmund@fgi.com

#### INDIANA

Bloomington: 1991. 2nd and 4th Sun., 2-4pm. Call Marlen Rust, 812-336-2792.  
\*Evansville: 1991. Contact Sandy Schultheis, 812-985-2958, e-mail: sandys@evans.evcp1.lib.in.us

#### IOWA

Cedar Falls: 1991. 3rd Sun., 2-4pm. Call Michael Moore, 319-277-8495, e-mail: mm11046@www.cedarnet.org

#### KANSAS

\*Hesston, (central KS): 1991. Contact Ken Rodgers, 316-327-4516, e-mail: KenR@hesston.edu  
Lawrence: 1991. 1st Sun. 1:30-4pm. Call Susan Green, 913-831-3912.

#### KENTUCKY

Berea: 1991. Sundays, 2 pm. Contact Kent Gilbert, 606-986-4057, e-mail: kgilbert@mis.net  
Lexington: 1991. 2nd Sun., Sept.-May, 3-5pm. Contact Keith MacAdam, 606-268-0998, e-mail: phy156@pop.uky.edu

#### MAINE

Portland: 1991. 2nd Sun., 1:30-4pm. Call Max Berueffy, 207-775-1486, e-mail: mberueff@forum-financial.com

#### MARYLAND

Baltimore: 1991. 2nd Sun., Sept.-June, 4-8pm. Contact Tom Padwa, 410-366-1959; e-mail: tomp@qis.net  
Metropolitan Washington, DC: See District of Columbia.

#### MASSACHUSETTS

Amherst: 1991. NH, NHH. 1st Sun., 1:30-4:30pm. Call Ruth & Richard Hooke 413-549-3587.  
Boston: 1991. 2nd Mon., 7:45-10pm. Contact Bob Parr, 781-648-1009, e-mail: parr@il.mit.edu.

#### MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor: 1991. Occasional meetings. Call 313-761-1800, e-mail: k-knecht@onu.edu.  
Kalamazoo: 1991. 3rd Sun., 4-6pm. Contact Bill & Martha Beverly, 616-382-4288, e-mail: beverly@net-link.net

#### MINNESOTA

Minneapolis: 1991. 4th Sun., 5-7pm. Call Keith & Jenny Willard, 612-699-2040, e-mail: kwillard@mmsmail.hsii.ccare.com.  
Saint Paul: 1991. 2nd Sun., 5-7pm. Call Keith & Jenny Willard, 612-699-2040, e-mail: keithw@mmsmail.hsii.ccare.com.

#### MISSISSIPPI

Bruce: 1991. 3rd Sun., Nov.-Mar., 1-3pm. Contact Hugh Bill McGuire, 601-983-2376, or Warren Steel, e-mail: mudws@mail.olemiss.edu  
Houston: 1991. 1st Sun., Dec.-Mar., 1-3pm. Contact Elder Charles Porter, 601-456-3879, or Mark Davis, e-mail: Horn4@aol.com

#### MISSOURI

Columbia: 1991. 2nd & 4th Tues., 7:30-9pm. Contact Wendy Hoffman, 573-446-1075, e-mail: mathsh@showme.missouri.edu  
Kansas City: 1991. 3rd Sun., 1:30pm. Call Susan or Richard Green, 913-831-3912.  
Saint Louis: 1991. 1st, 3rd, & 5th Mon., 7:30pm. Contact Dave Ressler, 314-776-7477, or Kathryn Smith, e-mail: ksmith@library2.websteruniv.edu

#### NEBRASKA

Lincoln: 1991. 1st & 3rd Sun., 2pm. Call Arlie Prokop, 402-423-0015, e-mail: mshort1@aol.com  
Omaha: 1991. Last Sat. of month, 8pm. Contact Jean Carhart, 402-558-8377, or Sandra Squires, e-mail: squires@cwis.unomaha.edu

#### NEW JERSEY

Upper Montclair: 1991. 4th Sun., 2-5:30pm. Contact George & Jean Seiler, 973-746-0940, or Gina Balestracci, e-mail: balestracci@satum.montclair.edu

#### NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque: 1991. 2nd & 4th Sun. Contact Lissa Callirhoe or Harlan Van Camp, 505-867-6539, or David McPherson, e-mail: mac@unm.edu.

#### NEW YORK

Albany, NY (E. Greenbush): 1991. Second Sunday, 7:30-10pm  
Contact Larry & Shirley Basch, 518-479-1234, e-mail: lbasch@global2000.net  
Binghamton (Vestal): 1991. 4th Sun., 2-4pm except in summer. Contact Dennis Leipold 607-724-8784, e-mail: dleipold@spectra.net  
Buffalo: 1991. Monthly. Contact Vincent Kuntz, 716-884-7807, e-mail: bz505@freenet.buffalo.edu  
Clinton: 1991. 2nd & 4th Sun., 3-5pm. Contact Barbara Sweetman, 315-853-5723, e-mail: bswetman@hamilton.edu  
Ithaca: 1991. 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sun., 2-4pm. Contact Jennifer Cook, 607-273-7076, e-mail: jc27@cornell.edu.  
Kingston: 1991. Fourth Tues., 7-9 pm. Contact Jim Ulrich, 914-657-8314, e-mail: ulrich@nhv.net  
NY City (Brooklyn): 1991. 3rd Sun., 2pm, Sept.-June. Call Richard Schneider, 718-643-1524.

## COMMENTS ON HARP SINGING, BY VARIOUS PEOPLE

The harmonic settings have a rather rough and ready air on paper: parallel and direct fifths and octaves, incomplete chords, and so on. This very unconventionality, however, stemmed from a fine feeling for the sound of massed voices... The actual singing has an intense resonance, unsuspected by the eye, because the custom is for both men and women to sing all the parts, producing so broad and full an octave doubling that the frequently-omitted thirds of certain chords are never missed. You singly choose the part you like the best and "sing if up" if you're a woman, "down" if you're a man. The melody, under this system of free enterprise may win out in numbers or may not.

"Liberty" [No. 98 in *The New Harp of Columbia*] offers a fine example of the bare harmonies... with plenty of octaves and fifths sounding together, with an occasional third.

"Ocean" [No. 159] is real contrapuntal writing, for the voices make fine independent melodies throughout, with plenty of contrary motion and variations in note values.

"Greenfields" [No. 16] was a well known folk tune when Bach appropriated it for the "Peasant Cantata." It was a song known to Abe Lincoln when he was a boy.

"Hightower" [No. 87] is a sentimental harmonic hymn, of a true dissenter lugubriousness.

— George Pullen Jackson, from notes by Sidney Robertson Cowell found in the Folkways Records FA 2356.

• • •

On using folk tunes in hymns: One motive was the crying need for rousing and familiar tunes. Another reason seems to have been the mere fact that the borrowed tunes were worldly. Worldliness was of itself an asset. Fighting the devil with his own weapons (tunes) had its distinct advantages...

Seated between a pulpit asserting its supremacy in everything but song, and a choir loft monopolizing the song, the people were no longer a band of common worshippers but merely an audience attending a performance of worship...

As one of the elders of a formal church said, "I cannot do with the Hymns, they are all the time

in my head, and I cannot get them out. The Psalms never troubled me that way.

— Excerpted from an article by Marvin McKissick on "The Function of the Music," *The Hymn*, 1959, Vol. 9, No. 4.

• • •

On pitching a tune: I know of none but good people who sing the Old Harp and I hope to meet them all in Heaven. But if there is a Harp singer who is in hell, it is those who pitch them too low and too slow.

— Bates Elliot

• • •

The true folk song, passed along by oral tradition, is constantly changing, and who is to say what it sounded like 100 or 150 years ago? Times change, and tastes change with them. It is hoped that the great Protestant denominations will rediscover the grand old tunes... Do other groups other than East Tennessee Old Harp Singers change tunes in Aeolian to Dorian mode?

—From *Sing to Me of Heaven* by Dorothy Horn (who is still with us and doing well).

• • •

I would not walk across the street to listen to Harp Singing, but I would drive 200 miles to sing it.

— Hugh McGraw

• • •

A conversation:

Martha Graham: "Do you remember me, Russell?"

Russell Whitehead: "I don't know your name, but you are Carrie Weir's little girl. You sound just like her!"

Martha: "Are you surprised that we showed up for your 100 year birthday party?"

Russell: "I shore am. I was 100 two days ago!"

—On the occasion of Russell Whitehead's 100th Birthday Singing

• • •

Bet Fryer to Donna Finger, whose mates were singing at Cades Cove: "We can see how far we can go without hearing them sing. But if they stop singing for the day, we may not be able to find the direction to hike out [of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park]."

## "MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD" A LESSON IN OLD HARP SINGING

What is going on here? The people in front of you are singing old folk tunes, fuguing pieces and minor modals, to religious poetry. This is community, four-part harmony, and you are invited to sing with us. There should be some extra books around. See if you can look on.

The book you see is called *The New Harp of Columbia*. This is a singing school manual, compiled mostly from five other singing school manuals used in East Tennessee; some of them printed even before Tennessee became a state. The top line is treble, sung by both men and women. The second line is the alto staff, sung by women. The third line down is the tenor line, also called the lead or melody, sung by both men and women. The bottom line is the bass, sung by men. Any part can be sung one octave higher or lower. So at times you can have six-part harmony.

Anyone has the opportunity to get up or request a song at an Old Harp Singing. The leader will go around the room, or class as it is known, requesting that you get up and lead a lesson. The lesson from the old singing schools would have been at the graduation presentations, getting each member of the class to sing his or her choice of tunes. But the lesson since the early singing schools may also be represented in the poetry or sermons the words were taken from, or may be a way for an individual or individuals to remember those who have gone before. The background for the lesson may or may not be made known, but everyone has the right to get up and lead. And everyone is always gracious enough to sing out as if the lesson were their own.

As in the singing school tradition, the notes are sung before singing the words. In early America, many people could not read, let alone read music. On page 4 of your book are the seven shapes used in this manual. The shapes are sung, then the poetry, which was usually from the great sermons of the time and, so great an impression on all, usually memorized.

Not all Harp Singings were direct descendants from singing schools. As many preachers were circuit riders, servicing their churches once a month, on the other weekends you might visit another church or attend a Harp Singing nearby. Herb Clabo said in the spring or fall he was always within walking distance of a Harp Singing with a dinner on the ground.

Please look at the top of the page where you see "C.M." or "L.M." or "S.M." which refers to meter. Ministers like Isaac Watts, John Wesley, and John Newton took Psalms and put them to meter, called hymns. You can interchange any tune to any poetry with the same meter.

The melodies that you are hearing today were taken from the inns and taverns of early America where most of the commerce was transacted. In the evenings after supper and a couple tins of ale, they would sing old sea chanteys, marching songs, dirges, and traditional songs of their ancestral countries. The preachers and women folk of the community would try to wean these leaders of America out of these dens of iniquity by saying that if they would come to singing school, they would not only be able to sing their favorite tunes, but could sing them in three or four part harmony. Once there, the singing was picked up with much élan and gusto. The words had been changed though, to religious prose. The old adage of "bait and switch" might be appropriate here.

The music written by tunesmiths worked like this. They would pick out a melody that they liked, write a bass and treble, maybe an alto as well. The southern tunesmiths, keeping in touch with their public, wrote the treble and bass with an interweaving harmony with the melody, called polyphony.

The early tunesmiths were self taught. You will find many tunes with raised fifths. You will find fugue pieces with a set piece in the beginning and sort of a round at the end. You will find many minors in the Aeolian and Dorian modes. All the tunes, through the reprinting and upgrading of different singing

## "MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE" (CONT'D)

school manuals, have stood the test of time. On the cover of one book that was printed before the Civil War, it was said that more than 17 million people were singing these patent noted tunes.

For the most part, one does not find a key signature in the beginning of the staff. The music is meant to be singable; the starting note in the lead line has been negotiable for as long as one can be remembered, depending on the voices available and what condition they are in after singing all day. If the last note in the bass is a La, then 99% of the time it is a minor. You will find approximately 40% of these tunes are in minor.

What is here today is only a presentation to the public. Many of the Old Harp Singers could not make it today. You will not know of the dinner on the ground, the hugs, holding of hands while singing "Old Hundred," the passing away of old friends, the sharing, the laughs and the teasing that goes on all the time. We are here to share this little piece of us. You are welcome to use these lessons anytime; they are not ours alone.

Used books are for sale or you can order books from the University of Tennessee. They were \$16.95 a year ago. There are singings in more than 36 states (using other books) and five of the surrounding counties here in East Tennessee. See pages 7-8 of this newsletter for a list of Singings. Books on this type of music include *Sing to Me of Heaven* by Dorothy Horn (only found in libraries), *Sacred Harp* by Buell Cobb, and *William Billings of Boston*, University of Princeton Press. Other information can be found by writing to Old Harp, c/o Jubilee Community Arts, 1538 Laurel Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37916-2016.

This year, 1998, Old Harp Singing will be 200 years old in East Tennessee. It will also be 150 years of singing out of our book. Join us in the celebration this year.



## A REVIEW OF THREE HARP SINGING CDs

I have been asked through Jubilee Community Arts to review three CDs on Harp Singing (Sacred Harp).

The first is an Alan Lomax Library of Congress 1940s recording in the *Southern Journey* series, called *The Sacred Harp* (Rounder CD 1503). There is an excellent write-up at the beginning of this CD by Wayne D. Shirley. It is a good way to compare the singings that one hears today with 50 years ago.

The second is another Alan Lomax recording in the *Southern Journey* series: *Harp of a Thousand Strings*, Vol. #9, Rounder CD 1709. This is part of a two-set CD of the 1959 United Sacred Harp Singing Convention at Fyffe, Alabama. The write-up and pictures are excellent. They did not update the research that "Captain Kidd" and the tune "Wondrous Love" are not the same. The music also contains talking and exhortation by the singers. It is a good benchmark for us singers to peg ourselves to.

The third is another Alan Lomax recording in the *Southern Journey* series: *And Glory Shone Around*, Vol. #10, Rounder CD 1710. This is also part of a two-set CD of the 1959 United Sacred Harp Singing Convention in Fyffe, Alabama. The write-up is the same as Vol. #9. The pictures and text are different. There are more fuguing pieces in this CD.

Please have your local record shop order these for you as we do not have the finances and organization to keep these in house for resale.

On another note, we have some new converts who are in the process of producing videos and tapes of Old Harp Singings here in East Tennessee. We will have an announcement about them in the fall newsletter.

—Larry Olszewski



## COMMENTS ON OLD HARP, BY LARRY OLSZEWSKI

*The Sacred Harp*, *The New Harp of Columbia*, *Southern Harmony*, and others are Singing School Manuals, used to teach people how to sing. Now they can be considered hymnals, song or tune books, or more aptly, living repositories of traditional folk hymns, anthems, and fuguing pieces, as well as tunes wrought in minor modes.

Imagine in 1850 there is a singing up in Gates City, Virginia (Carter Family country) with the newly compiled book *The Harp of Columbia*, by W.H. Swan. Swan would have led two weeks of singing school, then a presentation on Saturday or Sunday at the end. The community at large would attend the graduation ceremony. In the morning the individuals would demonstrate leading a lesson that they had learned to teach the rest of the class. A dinner on the ground was a lunch break and in the afternoon, the community was invited to join the class and everyone would be invited to get up if they had a hankering to lead a "lesson" of their choice. (A "lesson" may not be just in the music but also in the poetry or sermons of the songs.)

Before closing, there would always be individuals that would get up and lead lessons from the old singing school manuals. They were out of print, but some people had not worn theirs out, and their family had been singing for years. Since everyone had an opportunity to lead a song of their choice, it didn't matter whether it was from the manual of the current singing school or one from a previous class.

The people using the old book, singing the old songs from the older singing school manuals, were called "Those Old Harp Singers." (Most of the books at that time had a lyre or a harp embossed on the spine.) Charlie Clabo, who ran the Headrick Chapel singing, can remember when people got up and led songs from *The Harp of Columbia*, books that had been in one or two families, and also songs that were left out of *The New Harp of Columbia* that were community favorites. Charlie Clabo called them Old Harp Singers. Now everyone

who sings out of *The New Harp of Columbia* is termed an Old Harp Singer. I believe you could say a person singing from *The Sacred Harp* is also an Old Harp Singer. I don't think one who sings four-note music should renounce *Sacred Harp* though. It does have a distinctive ring to it.

In the 1980s I remember at the end of a singing, the moderator would ask the Clabo family or the Adams or Wilson families to get up and do one of their quartets. I can remember Burl Adams asking some folks that came up from Mississippi, singing from *The Sacred Harp*, to lead some of the songs from their book.

There was a sense of balance to the early singings that I attended. Everyone who showed up had a moment of their own if they chose. Some people just stood up and praised Old Harp Singings and went on and on, about the length of time it would take to sing a tune, and the moderator (usually Burl Adams) would say "Thank you, Brother, for your kind words, but we best be moving on before we set up."

Old Harp Singings continued into the '80s, at least with families in the churches having a say-so to hold a Harp Singing in their church on a certain day of the year. As families did not always remain in authority as elders of those churches, preachers moved into the leadership vacuum and Old Harp Singings fell to neglect. After WWII there were enough preachers for every church to be serviced by a preacher every Sunday. You were asked to choose to be a Methodist, Old Line Baptist, Southern Baptist, Presbyterian, etc. There was more emphasis on belonging to a specific denomination than on belonging to the community as a whole. Few churches had the balance to hold a Harp Singing without asking for the larger singing community to join.

There are no preconditions to be an Old Harp Singer. If you show up, we are glad to have you. We, as trustees of Sacred Harp, Old Harp, and the like, have to remember what we are keepers of. Singing the shapes and then the

## COMMENTS ON OLD HARP, BY LARRY OLSZEWSKI (CONT'D)

poetry is not even half of it. Religion, democracy, sharing and community, singing three or four parts and "doubling up" or "doubling on down" (men and women singing the same part an octave higher or lower), adding verses from other tunes so long as it is the same meter, handshakes and hugs, visiting people and sharing troubles and trials, droning — all are elements of Harp Singing. It is all-encompassing, holistic. Remember that the books were first compiled to be singing school manuals, to learn to sing, and watch the young people learn and grow.

Harp singing is growing again and we do not need to leave anyone out who needs us. That is (Old) Harp Singing.

Your comments on Old Harp Singing are welcome. Just send them to Old Harp, c/o Jubilee Community Arts, 1538 Laurel Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37916-2016.

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Lessons can be found in the printing mistakes in *The New Harp of Columbia*. I believe that there are over 20 misprints where the shape and lines and spaces do not match properly. If you sing the *shape* rather than its position within the lines and spaces, you will be right over 95% of the time.

• • •

I have been told that the original printing plates to *The Harp of Columbia* and *The New Harp of Columbia* are not in existence today. A good guess is that they were part of a melt-down of materials to help the war effort in WWII. Phil Tabor sponsored a 1960-ish photo-reprint of *The New Harp of Columbia*. Our latest photo-reprint edition was made from the one which Phil Tabor sponsored.

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I am also looking for an adjustable tuning fork to use as a master to have more made. I believe they were made and given out to some

of the better students at singing schools. I am also trying to confirm this.

• • •

Droning, initiated by T.J. Lawson in his singing schools in Cades Cove, is not dead. Just filed away for reference until we figure out how to properly get 50 to a hundred or more people to do it in a closed church with people "not as mobile as they once was." Droning, as used by T.J. Lawson, was when he got the class to sound the starting chord of a song and march around in a circle holding that chord, while he listened to a quartet sing their parts in the center of the circle.

This way he would keep order in the class by getting everyone focused on holding the sound for as long as possible, while also getting them up and moving around, usually to the rhythm of the music being sung.

T. J. Lawson conducted his Singing Schools in the Primitive Baptist Church and the Methodist Church in Cades Cove after the Civil War.

Droning has been going on at various singings and times since then. This has been confirmed by Charlie Clabo, Bates Elliot, Dorothy Horn, Martha Graham, Henrietta Sharp, The Wears Valley Singers, and a few others.

If you have any other information on droning or Old Harp, please send it to me at: Old Harp, c/o Jubilee Community Arts, 1538 Laurel Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37916-2016.

### HELP SOUGHT TO TRACE DESCENDANTS OF M.L. & W.H. SWAN

Efforts have been made in contacting the Swan family descendants to trace M.L. Swan and W.H. Swan, but to no avail. If anyone has any information, please contact me (Larry Olszewski) at (423) 584-6633.

**WHY DO PEOPLE SING OLD HARP?**

Why do people sing or not sing Old Harp?

Discussion: At one time in the foreword of one of the Old Harp books, before the Civil War, it was claimed that more than 17 million of these oblong Singing School Manuals of various sorts had been sold.

What has happened to Old Harp now? Have peoples' tastes changed that much in all these years? Does the comment, found in Dorothy Horn's book *Sing to Me of Heaven* that the Ionian and Dorian modes of music are the most primitive of man's music, scare them away? "I don't want to be just basic, I wish to be progressive." "I would rather be sung to by a choir of pretty music than make a 'joyful noise.'"

"Maybe I don't think of this music at all. It is just not pleasant to my ear." In any case, think of the pluses. Think of those folk hymns as being the rock and roll of hymnody. Think of all those children being born of people "making music." Might even have been your grandparents.

Think of all the great friendships, the sharing, the spiritual uplifting that was found at those Old Harp Singings. What about the watching of youngsters of the communities taking on responsibilities, getting up and leading new songs? "Why, that boy, little Charlie Clabo, has taken over that Headrick Chapel Singing. I never in a million years..."

Why do you sing? Why do you sing Old Harp? I believe the answer can be found in the last line of Harry Chapin's *Mr. Tanner* on why he sang:

"It just made him whole."

— Larry Olszewski

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OLD HARP NEWSLETTER**

If you would like to receive *The Old Harp Newsletter*, and you are not currently on our mailing list, write to:

Old Harp, c/o Jubilee Community Arts,  
1538 Laurel Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37916-2016.

**FAVORITE RECIPES FROM OLD HARP**

*Scripture Cake*

1st Kings 4:22	Four and a half Cups
Judges 5:25	One Cup
Jeremiah 6:20	Two Cups
1st Samuel 30:12	Two Cups
Nahum 3:12	Two Cups
Numbers 17:8	Two Cups (ground)
1st Samuel 14:25	Two Tablespoons
Leviticus 2:13	One-fourth Teaspoon
Judges 4:19	One-half Cup
Amos 4:5	Two Tablespoons
Jeremiah 17:11	Six, medium

Mix and bake in a 300° oven for about 2-1/2 hours.

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*California Cabbage Salad*

Mix together:

- 1/4 c + 2 T sesame oil
- 3 T vinegar
- 3 T sugar
- 1 t pepper
- Top Ramen seasoning packet

Toss dressing with 1/2 head shredded cabbage and 1/2 bunch of sliced green onions (including tops).

Just before serving add:

- 3 T sesame seeds (toasted)
- 1/2 c slivered almonds (toasted)  
(the above toasted in oven or skillet)
- 1 pkg. Top Ramen uncooked, crushed noodles  
(crush in bag before opening)

Add chunks of cooked chicken and oriental vegetables.

—Contributed by Chris Griffin who got it from her California cousin Carolyn. Chris says she uses the Oriental flavor Ramen noodle mix for this but maybe other flavors would be good. This has been enjoyed at several Old Harp Singings. Thanks for sharing, Chris!



