OLD HARP

THE Continental Harmony,
CONTAINING,
A Number of ANTHEMS, FUGES, and CHORUSSES, in several Parts.
NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED.
COMPOSED BY WILLIAM BILLINGS,
Author of various Music Books.

Psalm cxlvii. 7. As well the Singers as the Players on instruments shall be there.
Psalm xcviii. 1. The Singers went before, the Players on Instruments followed after, amongst them were the Danites.
Luke xvi. 10. I tell you that if these will hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.
Rev. xxv. 4. And again they said Alleluia.

Come let us sing unto the Lord,
And praise his name with one accord,
In the power of his name let usuge.
From east to west his praise proclaim,
From pole to pole extend his fame,
The sky and earth echo back his praise.

Published according to Act of Congress.

PRINTED, Typographically, at BOSTON,
by ISAIAH THOMAS and EBENEZER T. ANDREWS.
Sold at their Bookshop, No. 45. Newbury Street; by Elisha Thomas in Worcester; and by the Bookseller in Boston, and alikewise—1794.

Number 16
Fall 1995

The New Harp of Columbia Newsletter
The New Harp of Columbia Calendar – 1995 Singings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>DINNER?</th>
<th>INFORMATION (CONTACT PEOPLE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Headrick Chapel Singing, Hwy. 321 (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County (B) (O)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Wears Valley Singing at Valley View Baptist Church, Valley View Rd. of Hwy. 321 (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County (L) (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>National Folk Festival Singing, Hunter Museum of Art, Chattanooga (U) (Send in coupon on page 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 14</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:30 AM &amp; 12 NOON</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Museum of Appalachia Singing (B) (O)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>2 PM</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Dollywood Singing (I) (E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>6 PM</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>World’s Fair Park Singing, Knoxville (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>Sunday (4)</td>
<td>2 PM</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Maryville College Singing, Blount County (K)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Eve Pot Luck &amp; Old Harp Singing, Laurel Theater, 16th &amp; Laurel Ave., Knoxville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 9</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10 AM</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Sugarlands Singing, Sugarlands Visitor Center, Great Smoky Mts. Natl. Park (I)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The New Harp of Columbia Calendar – Preview of 1996 Singings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>DINNER?</th>
<th>INFORMATION (CONTACT PEOPLE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 1-2</td>
<td>Fri.-Sat.</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Old Harp Singing School, Laurel Theater, 16th &amp; Laurel Ave., Knoxville (Send in coupon on page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Sunday (2)</td>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Epworth Old Harp Singing, Laurel Theater, 16th &amp; Laurel Ave., Knoxville (D) (H) (S)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Various

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTHLY</th>
<th>SUNDAYS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>DINNER?</th>
<th>INFORMATION (CONTACT PEOPLE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Old Harp, 2nd and 5th Sundays of each month, usually at Laurel Theater (downstairs), 16th and Laurel Ave. (S) (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VARIOUS</td>
<td>..........</td>
<td>..........</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Sacred Harp Singing, Knoxville (W) (Y)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SINGING SCHOOLS ARRANGED:</td>
<td>..........</td>
<td>..........</td>
<td>..........</td>
<td>Sejinar, workshops, 3-day and 10-day classes for basic and advanced music (both 4-note and 7-note notations) (O)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, phone the appropriate contact person(s) – see list at the top of page 3.

On the Cover

The cover of this issue features a reproduction of the title page and frontispiece from The Continental Harmony (1794), a tune-book by William Billings (1746–1800), the composer of several tunes in The New Harp of Columbia. Billings was a tanner by trade before he began composing music. He was much in demand as a singing teacher and published at least six tune-books during his lifetime.

Connection bears the following message in the innermost circle: “This tune is thus disposed to show that every tune is a Complete circle; that what may be deficient in the first barr, is supplied in the last.”

The words for the three verses are at right:

1. Hail! Sacred Music hail:
   We offer at thy shrine
   One perfect round compleat in sound,
   Celestial and divine.

2. 'Tis by thy Heav'nly aid
   In one Majestic sound,
   We celebrate Jehovah's State,
   In one eternal round.

3. Great is the Lord our God,
   His mercy knows no bound;
   Just are His ways, then let His praise
   Eternally go round.

(The cover illustration for this issue was submitted by Allan & Sharon Hjerpe.)
DOREMI

A shapenote music font

Typeset in five different shapenote systems with one Postscript/TrueType font.

Simply specify DOREMI as the default music font in Coda’s Finale™ and indicate which notehead is to be used for each scale degree. All the shapes necessary for the shapenote systems listed below are provided in DOREMI. Directions for how to do this in Finale as well as Finale templates for all five shapenote systems are included. The font is distributed as both Postscript Type 1 and TrueType. Specify Mac or Windows, and which version of Finale you use.

Shapenote systems currently available include:
- Swan System (as in The New Harp of Columbia)
- Little & Smith System (as in The Sacred Harp)
- Walker System (as in Christian Harmony, first ed.)
- Aiken System (as in Christian Harmony, Deason ed.)
- Funk System (as in The Harmonia Sacra)

DOREMI is $50 plus $2 shipping and handling for domestic addresses. (Or arrange for a barter—just ask!) Want a symbol, character, or noteshape not included in DOREMI? Additional customized versions of DOREMI are available for $10—send a photocopy of what you want included. Order from Karen Willard, 15215 Tubbs Rd., Buckley WA 98321; phone 360-897-9545; e-mail KarWillard@aol.com
**Upcoming Singings – 1995**

**Headrick Chapel Singing**, September 24, 11:00 a.m. This is one of the few traditional singings that still has a dinner on the ground. Morning session starts with the ringing of the bell at 11:00 a.m., lunch at 12 noon, and the afternoon session at 1:00 p.m. The location is on State Route #321 (Wears Valley Road), between Pigeon Forge and Townsend, about 200 yards east of the Blount County line. For more information, call Lois at 693-9292 or Larry at 584-6633.

**Wears Valley Singing**, October 1, 1:30 p.m., at Valley View Baptist Church. Valley View Baptist Church is location just off State Route #321 about five miles east of Wears Valley Methodist Church. This is the oldest continuing Old Harp Singing in East Tennessee. For more information call Henry Lawson at 453-7638, Luke Headrick at 453-2407 or Bruce Wheeler (weekdays only) at 974-5421.

**National Folk Festival Singing**, October 8, 2:30 p.m., in the Atrium of the Hunter Museum of Art, 10 Bluff View, Chattanooga. Part of the 57th National Folk Festival sponsored by the National Council for the Traditional Arts. Shaped-note singers from the Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina and Alabama areas will sing from The New Harp of Columbia. For more information about the singing, contact Carroll Ross at (423) 745-4505 (work) or (423) 745-9379 (home). There will be a bus providing rides from several locations in Sevier County and Blount County; and there may be a van providing rides from Knoxville. Please return coupon on page 9 of this newsletter if you are planning to attend, whether or not you want to ride the bus.

**Museum of Appalachia Singing**, October 14 (Saturday). The tentative singing times are at 10:30 and noon. We have been allotted 25 tickets in the past, and we expect to have the same number again this year. For more information, call Lois Luebke at 693-9292 or see Larry Olszewski at any of the singings.

**Dollywood Singing**, October 15, 2:00 p.m. Bill Cody has asked us back again for another presentation at the church. Your New Harp of Columbia is your free ticket into Dollywood for the day. It usually takes a minimum of half an hour to make it from the parking lot to the church, if you know where you are going. Trolleys provide rides from the various Dollywood parking lots to the ticket entrance, making the rounds every 10 minutes. For more information, please call Martha Graham at 453-3276.

**World’s Fair Park Singing**, October 16, (Monday), 6 p.m. The Forest Service is hosting an introduction to various types of traditional music in the Amphitheater at the World’s Fair Park, and the Old Harp singers have been invited to sing for about half an hour as part of the program. Nan and Tom Taylor got their introduction to Old Harp singing by attending a program such as this one at Tremont many years ago. For more information, call Gideon Fryer at 577-2272.

**Maryville College Singing**, October 22, 2:00 p.m. in the old College Post Office in the center of the campus. It is always well attended by many who don’t attend other singings in the area. Tom Taylor is the organizer. For more information, call Tom at 984-8585.

**Thanksgiving Eve Singing**, November 22 (Wednesday), 6:30 p.m., at the Laurel Theatre, 16th and Laurel Ave., in Knoxville. This is the annual Wednesday before Thanksgiving potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by Old Harp singing. In the past, turkey has been provided. Please bring a covered dish to share. For more information, call Gideon Fryer at 577-2272.

**Sugarlands Singing**, December 9 (Saturday), 10:30 a.m. The location is the Sugarlands Visitor Center in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, just outside Gatlinburg. Reford Lamon will host. For more information call Reford at 453-4881 or Martha at 453-3276.

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**Preview of Upcoming Singings – 1996**

**Old Harp Singing School**, March 1-2, at the Laurel Theatre, 16th and Laurel Ave., in Knoxville. Singing school will meet both Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. We must have ten people sign up in order to hold class. Send coupon on page 9 to Old Harp Newsletter if you would like to attend.

**Epworth Old Harp Singing**, March 10, 11:00 a.m., at the Laurel Theatre, 16th and Laurel Ave., in Knoxville. For more information, call Gideon Fryer at 577-2272 or Terry Faulkner at 584-3659.
New Harp of Columbia – Books, used once and rewrapped, are available for $10 at the Old Harp Singings. The books are spiral bound and were used at the Hymn Society Singing in June, 1994. Books can also be obtained by writing to: Old Harp Newsletter, c/o Jubilee Community Arts, 1538 Laurel Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916-2016. The cost of the postage will be added. Make check out to Old Harp.

Christian Harmony (1873 ed.) – The 1873 reprinted edition is available for $20 plus $3 for postage per book by writing to: Willie Israel, 124 Brucemont Circle, Asheville, NC 28806. Make check out to Folk Heritage of W.N.C.

Write to Willie Israel if you would like their newsletter or to attend their singings in Western N.C. They have singings scheduled in January, April, May, July, August, September, and November. They also list the William Walker singing in January in Spartanburg, S.C. There are singings on the first and third Saturdays of each month at Boone, N.C.

The American Christmas Harp – compiled by Karen Willard is about ready. Thanks to Bob Richmond, I have obtained a preliminary copy. The book is in the fa-so-la four note notation, and is at least 138 pages long, including Psalm Tunes, Hymn Tunes, and Anthems, all drawn from early American Tune Books. See Karen’s ad on page 8 of this newsletter for order information.

Christian Harmony (1957 rev. ed.) – For the listing of local singings in Alabama and Georgia, using the 1957 revised (1994) edition, write to Art Deason, Box 531, Centreville, AL 35042. The books are $15 plus $2.50 for postage at book rate.

OLD HARP AT THE LIBRARY

The Old Harp Newsletter has donated both Christian Harmony books and The American Christmas Harp to the Knoxvillle/Knox County Public Library. Copies should be available in the Library some time in September.

NEW HARP OF COLUMBIA HISTORY

“Early East Tennessee Shape-Note Tune Books” by Marion J. Hatchett

For those interested, the July 1995 issue of The Hymn, (vol. 46, no. 3) includes an in-depth article on the roots of The New Harp of Columbia. Among books mentioned were Johnson’s Tennessee Harmony, Missouri Harmony, Kentucky Harmony and its Supplement, Union Harmony, Southern Harmony and the Sacred Harp. For those interested in reading more about the roots of Old Harp, have your librarian get you a copy or contact Larry Olczewski to borrow his copy of the July issue of The Hymn.

I AM INTERESTED IN THE TWO-DAY SINGING SCHOOL AT THE LAUREL THEATER

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City ____________________________ State _____ Zip __________
Phone ____________________________

☐ I/we would like to attend the two-day Old Harp Singing School.

Number of people to attend: __________

Estimated cost of the two-day Singing School will be about $10. Books will be available to borrow during the Singing School, or you may purchase a book for an additional $10.

Fill out this form, then clip it and mail it to: Old Harp Newsletter, c/o Jubilee Community Arts, 1538 Laurel Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916-2016.
A PUZZLE OF WORDS FOUND IN THE NEW HARP OF COLUMBIA

"Seek and ye shall find"

—Matthew 7:7

The solutions to clues can be found in The New Harp of Columbia. The completed crossword will appear in the next issue of the Old Harp Newsletter.

ACROSS

1. East Tennessee shape-note singers sing __________ (two words)
7. "Why should ______ start and fear to die?"
8. "When the Midnight _____ began, oh what lamentation!"
9. Third note of a minor scale.
12. Title - "where my possessions lie."
13. Note - called a Semibreve.
14. "He can create and ______ destroy."
16. ______ angels sung a Savior’s birth,”
18. Title - “Oh give me tears for others’ woes, and patience for my own."
20. Do mireododo reodoremi somisoso mireododo. “I hope in Christ you’ll still ____ on.”
21. Note - “Ye Christian heros” (who are trebles) “And plant the Rose of Sharon there.”
22. "Men who sing high."

DOWN

2. Note - A minor is indicated when the last note in the bass is this note.
3. Many of the early shape-note singing manuals or tune books used to have a lyre or _____ embossed on the bindings. Thus came the name of the singings.
4. Second note of a major scale.
5. A singing school manual compiler.
6. "The New Harp of Columbia and Its Music in the Singing-School Tradition” was written by _______.
10. The Harp of Columbia was revised in 1867 to ______ Harp of Columbia.
11. "Where ______ the friends that to me were so dear?”
12. “And the Swans adopted shapes for these syllables not used ______ where."
15. Title - “over the heavens he spreads his clouds, and waters veil the sky.”
17. What in the soul, "that tires and faints, and walks the ways of God no more.”
18. A note that has this marking to its right indicates the length of that note to be 1/2 more.

Our appreciation goes to Doris DeSpain for designing this puzzle. Clues devised by Doris DeSpain and Larry Olszewski.
**Area Code Changed to 423**

We would like to remind everyone that as of September 11th, the telephone area code in East Tennessee was changed from 615 to 423. Both area codes will be usable until February of 1996. After that time, you must use area code 423 for East Tennessee.

**Jubilee Community Arts**

Jubilee Community Arts (JCA) is now celebrating their 25th year of supporting Appalachian traditional and acoustic music and arts in this area.

We would like to thank JCA, Melody Reeves, and Karan Dotson for their help in keeping the Old Harp tradition alive. Though the NEA has discontinued monies that were applied to the publishing of this newsletter, JCA does keep our mailing list and collects our mail for us. Also, the Epworth Old Harp Singers still meet in the basement of the Laurel Theatre each second and fifth Sunday.

**Old Harp Mailing List**

With the funding of the Old Harp Newsletter discontinued, we have had to cut back on our mailing list. People who have not been to an Old Harp singing or have not sent at least a post card indicating that they still have an interest in the singings have been omitted from the mailing list but not from our hearts.

Currently, there should be enough money donated from the last call for donations to carry us through the Fall of 1996 newsletter.

**Newsletter Production**

We would like to thank Allan & Sharon Hjerpe for all their work on our past newsletters as well as this one. They have been pillars of the Old Harp Singings since they moved here six years ago. They have typed, edited, formatted, and spit out this newsletter as a professional publication that has set a standard in shaped-note newsletters. We thank them for their gift of these years in our community. They have now put their house up for sale and plan to move back to the West Coast when it sells, in order to be closer to family. We wish them well back in California.

**Old Harp — A Modest Proposal**

Does 1998 ring a bell for any Harp singers? It will be 150 years since the *Harp of Columbia* was printed by Swan here in East Tennessee.

The book was a compilation from many of the earlier tune books used in East Tennessee (many that were out of print) and turned into a viable Singing School Manual that has survived to this day. (See the *Early East Tennessee Shape-Note Tune Books* by Marion Hatchett, in *Vol. 46, No 3 July 1995 issue of The Hymn*, 18 pages, from your local librarian.)

It should be a period or a time of remembrance if not celebration of what we inherited from the Swan family, as well as the musical, social, and spiritual tradition that we have inherited from those before.

I am proposing that in 1998:

1. A touring exhibition be made in 1998 for display of all of the Old Harp Singings that include many of the books, traditions, and pictures of past Singings.

2. A review of the status of the *New Harp of Columbia* and the feasibility by then of another reprint, maybe with a hardbound cover or...

3. The feasibility of combining the *New Harp of Columbia* with the 60 tunes that were edited out when it was printed in 1867.

4. Whether it is also feasible to keep our Singing School manual *The New Harp/Harp of Columbia* in print by combining it with other tunes used by our ancestors here in East Tennessee that were not incorporated by the Swan family because of a need for only a Singing School manual at that time? For our book to be able to be re-published in any form or in some form, is it time for a repository of Old Harp tunes used in East Tennessee to be compiled?*

Your comments and other suggested are invited in writing. Write to me at the Old Harp Newsletter.

Respectfully,

Larry Olszewski, Old Harp Singer

*Shape-note font software was recently purchased by Bob Richmond of the Epworth Old Harp Singers. He and others have shown interest in adapting some tunes into the 7 shapes of the *New Harp of Columbia*. Interested parties are invited to participate in this effort.*
Sing this Christmas from an 89-tune collection of shapenote yule-time songs!

An American Christmas Harp
A Choice Collection of Psalm Tunes, Jigs, Hymn Tunes, Fuging Tunes, & Anthems; all with Christmas texts by Authors of the First Eminence, drawn from American Tunebooks of the 1700s - 1900s, plus Three English Songs Never Before Published in the United States

Selected By
Karen E. Willard

Tunes in An American Christmas Harp

All your favorites from The Sacred Harp, The Southern Harmony, The Missouri Harmony, both the Cooper and Denson editions of The Sacred Harp, and many others are brought together in one book, newly typeset. No more lugging around reams of xeroxed sheets and several unwieldy books to your Christmas singings.

Bound in an easy-to-hold yet durable stiff cardboard cover with spiral wire on the side, An American Christmas Harp is $16 plus $2 shipping. (Bulk orders get a break on the shipping cost). Orders from Washington state must include $1.26 sales tax.

Send orders to Karen E. Willard, 15215 Tubbs Rd., Buckley, WA 98321. Phone (360) 897-9545, or e-mail KarWillard@aol.com
At the suggestion of Johnnie Autrey, Larry has rented a bus from Roger and Virginia of Smokey Mountain Tours to take us to the Hunter Museum of Art, located at 10 Bluff View, in Chattanooga. The schedule will be as follows:

10:30 a.m. Begin boarding bus at Sevier County Courthouse
10:45 a.m. Leave for Pigeon Forge
11:00 a.m. Stop at gas station at the corner of Rte. #441 and #321 (Wears Valley Road)
11:20 a.m. Stop at Wearwood School on Rte. #321
11:40 a.m. Stop in Townsend at Rte. #321 right after crossing the Little River
12 Noon Stop at Maryville College parking lot in front of the Chapel
12:10 p.m. Leave for Chattanooga
2:00 p.m. Arrive at Hunter Museum in Chattanooga
2:30 p.m. Singing in atrium of Hunter Museum. After singing, there will be a free time to wander around and listen to singing, look at exhibits, and get a bite to eat.
5:00 p.m. Get back on bus for Sevierville.
7:00 p.m. Stop at Maryville College
7:20 p.m. Stop at Townsend, Rte. #321 at Little River crossing
7:40 p.m. Stop at Wearwood School
8:00 p.m. Stop at Pigeon Forge, corner of Rte. #441 and #321
8:15 p.m. Arrive at Sevier County Courthouse

- Cost of bus transportation is $5.00 per person. Make checks out to Larry Olszewski
- There are 41 seats available on the bus.
- Facilities are available on the bus.
- We can make stops along this route if pre-arrangements are made.
- Al Wishart, an Epworth Old Harp Singer, can help us out if there is an overbooking of spaces by driving a van and/or bringing some folks from Knoxville to the bus rendezvous in Sevierville.
- Dinner will have to be brought with you or bought at the Hunter Museum.
- Please fill out and return the coupon below if you are planning to attend so we can let the organizers know how big a space to arrange.
- We will try to make arrangements to get everyone there who wants to go.
- I can remember people telling of the trip to New York City in the 1950s to sing Old Harp. Maybe this is our generation’s big trip and singing.

Name: _____________________________

Number attending singing:  1  2  3  4  5  6  __  Number riding bus:  1  2  3  4  5  6  __

Location of pickup:  □ N/A  □ Sevier Courthouse  □ Pigeon Forge  □ Wearwood School
□ Townsend  □ Maryville College  □ Knoxville  □ Other __________

□ I AM ENCLOSING A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF $__________ FOR BUS TRAVEL.

Phone Number evenings: _____________________________

Please return this coupon if you plan to attend. (If you are NOT planning to ride the bus, check N/A for pickup location). Give this coupon information to Larry Olszewski by the Headrick Chapel Singing or mail it to: Larry Olszewski, 1232 Forest Brook Rd., Knoxville, TN 37919-8211.
I SUPPORT OLD HARP. PLEASE SEND ME THE OLD HARP NEWSLETTER.

Name ____________________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ______ Zip ________________

Phone (optional) _________________________________________________

☐ I am enclosing $1.50 to cover the cost of two issues of the Old Harp Newsletter.

☐ I am enclosing an additional donation of $_______ to help with the costs of Old Harp Newsletter.

Fill out this form, then clip it and mail it to: Old Harp Newsletter, c/o Jubilee Community Arts, 1538 Laurel Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916-2016.

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