

OLD HARP

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

The Epworth Old Harp Singers are sponsoring a
Singing School for both experienced singers
and beginners.



The Singing School will meet
Tuesday **April 13th**, Thursday the **15th**; and
Tuesday **April 20th**, and Thursday the **22nd**
at 7:30 at the home of Kathleen Mavournin and Bob Richmond.

Copies of The New Harp of Columbia will be available at the Singing School.



Number 23
Spring 1999

See Page 6 for more details.
East Tennessee subscribers will find
a FLASH CARD KIT enclosed.

The
New Harp of
Columbia
Newsletter

THE NEW HARP OF COLUMBIA CALENDAR — 1999 SINGINGS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DINNER?</u>	<u>INFORMATION (CONTACT PEOPLE)</u>
March 19	Friday	6:30 PM	No	Open the 29th annual Jubilee Festival, Laurel Theatre.
March 21	Sunday (3)	11:00 AM	Yes	Epworth Old Harp Singing, Laurel Theatre, 16th & Laurel Ave., Knoxville. Potluck at noon. (D) (H) (S)
March 28	Sunday (4)	1:30 PM	No	Oldhams Creek Singing, just off the end of King Branch Rd., Sevier County (N) (P)
April 4	Sunday (1)	5:30 PM	Yes	Easter Singing, Gooch-Mabbs Residence, 4401 Alta Vista Way, Knoxville (T)
April 13-15 & April 20-22	Tuesdays & Thursdays	7:30 PM	No	SINGING SCHOOL, 344 Seven Oaks Drive, Knoxville (I) (O) (X)
April 25	Sunday (4)	2:00 PM	No	Tuckaleechee Methodist Church Singing, Townsend (C)(K)
May 2	Sunday (1)	5:00 PM	Yes	Prodigal son John McCutcheon Singing and Potluck, Laurel Theatre, 16th & Laurel Ave., Knoxville.
May 16	Sunday (3)	2:30 PM	No	Old College Singing, Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, TN. Refreshments after. (U) (V)
June 20	Sunday (3)	11:00 AM	Yes	Beech Grove Primitive Baptist Church Singing, Sevier County (G) (A)
June 30	Wednesday	12:30 PM	No	Organist Guild at Headrick's Chapel, Wear's Valley. Refreshments.
August 15	Sunday (3)	2:30 PM	No	Cades Cove Missionary Baptist Church Singing, Great Smoky Mtns. National. Park (C) (K)
September 12	Sunday (2)	2:00 PM	No	Wears Valley Methodist Church Singing, Hwy. 321 (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County (J) (R)
September 26	Sunday (4)	11:00 AM	Yes	Headrick's Chapel Singing, Hwy. 321 (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County (B) (O)
October 3	Sunday (1)	2:00 PM	No	Wears Valley Singing at Valley View Baptist Church, Valley View Road off Hwy. 321 (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County (J) (L) (F)
October 9	Saturday (2)	10:30 AM and Noon	No	Museum of Appalachia Homecoming Singing, Norris, TN (B) (O)
October 10	Sunday (2)	2:00 PM	No	Dollywood Singing (I) (E)
October 24	Sunday (4)	2:00 PM	No	Maryville College Singing, Blount County (K)
November 24	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Yes	Thanksgiving Eve Potluck & Old Harp Singing, Laurel Theatre, 16th & Laurel Ave., Knoxville (D) (H) (S)
December 11	Saturday	10:00 AM	No	Sugarlands Singing, Sugarlands Visitors Center, Great Smoky Mountain National Park (I) (E)

CONTACT PEOPLE

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

NAME	PHONE	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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(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	VLPDSINGS@aol.com
(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) Kathleen Mavourmin	691-9506	344 S. Seven Oaks Dr.	Knoxville, TN	37922	Kmavourmin@aol.com
(J) Henry Lawson	453-7638	3538 Wears Valley Rd.	Sevierville, TN	37862	
(K) Tom & Nan Taylor	984-8585	138 Stanley	Maryville, TN	37803	TTaylor706@aol.com
(L) Bruce Wheeler (weekdays)	974-5421	P.O. Box 1049	Pigeon Forge, TN	37863	bwheeler@utkux.utcc.edu
(N) Hal Wilson	436-2590	950 Wilson Hollow Way	Sevierville, TN	37876	
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(P) Veta King	428-1375	313 Wickcliffe Court	Sevierville, TN	37862	
(Q) Joel Kasseran	(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	Kej@knoxnews.infi.net
(T) Bill Gooch, Meg Mabbs	522-0515	4401 Alta Vista Way	Knoxville, TN	37919	Goochbill@aol.com
(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	
(W) Jeff Farr	639-8211	530 Morgan Rd.	Greeneville, TN	37745	
(X) Bob Richmond	691-9506	344 S. Seven Oaks Dr.	Knoxville, TN	37922	RSRichmond@aol.com

Web Sites:

Jubilee Community Arts (home of the Laurel Theatre and Epworth Old Harp Singers):
<http://www.kornet.org/jca/>

Old Harp Singing Home Page (with links to more singing information):
<http://web.utk.edu/~tkoosman/oldharp/>
 (Thanks to Toby Koosman, webmistress!)

UPCOMING SINGINGS — 1999

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

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. We open the two-day, 29th Annual, Jubilee Festival at the Laurel Theatre, 16th and Laurel Ave. in Knoxville. 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.

NOTE: The adults and young adults from Northern Harmony will come and join our singing. Please help out and bring a little extra. There will be 25 more people from out of town (Vermont).

EPWORTH OLD HARP SINGING — Sunday, March 21, 11:00 A.M.

We celebrate the Spring Equinox with our Northern Harmony friends this year at our annual singing at the Laurel Theatre, 16th and Laurel Ave. in Knoxville, starting 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.

NORTHERN HARMONY — Monday, March 22, 6:00P.M., POTLUCK

The timing is a little off as it is the day after the Epworth Old Harp Singing at the Laurel Theatre. A group of high school students and their instructors are making a cross-country tour of the U.S.A.

They will be in Asheville, NC, the Sunday of March 22, and in Atlanta the evening of March 25. They will be singing at a Lutheran Church in Knoxville on March 24. The Epworth Old Harp singers will put these visitors up in our homes Saturday and Sunday, the 21st and 22nd.

Please contact Larry Olszewski if you can put up some of these fine folks. They will have sleeping bags. Larry's phone is 584-6633. We will meet each other and confirm billeting arrangements at the Epworth Old Harp Singing the night before.

OLDHAMS CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING — Sunday, March 28, 1:30 P.M.

This Palm 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. For more information, call David Wilson at (423) 453-0241 or Veta at (423) 428-1375 or Hal Wilson at 436-2590.

EASTER SINGING — Sunday, April 4, 5:30 P.M.

Daylight Savings Time begins today, so don't be too early! 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—especially altos, look at your part. For more information, call (423) 522-0515 to talk to Bill or Meg.

TUCKALEECHEE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SINGING — Sunday, April 25, 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.

PRODIGAL SON JOHN MCCUTCHEON RETURNS — Sunday, May 2, 5:00 P.M.

The Epworth Old Harp Singers' prodigal Old Harp Singer returns to Knoxville to do a concert at 8:00 P.M. at the Laurel Theatre. Last year, we had a potluck dinner and invited him to sing with us before the concert. We put food into his stomach and he sang 10 or more tunes with us. Last year we also sang a couple of tunes to open his act on state. Bring a covered dish to share. We will meet in the basement of the Laurel Theatre (concert tickets not included). For more information, call Gideon Fryer at 524-3136 or Larry Olszewski at 584-6633.

UPCOMING SINGINGS (CONT'D)

OLD COLLEGE SINGING — Sunday, May 16, 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 — Sunday, June 20, 11:00 A.M.

A good way to celebrate Father's Day. 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 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.

ORGAN MASTER GUILD SINGING — Wednesday, June 30, 12:30 P.M. at Headrick's Chapel.

The Knoxville chapter of the American Guild of Organists and any and all area harp singers will join together on Wednesday, June 30, 1999, to present a special program of "singing harp" to a busload of attendees to the aGO Region IV Convention. The time and location for this event will be 12:30-1:30 at Headrick's Chapel in Wear's Valley, Sevier County. The AGO will serve refreshments to give everyone a chance to get acquainted. Please put this on your calendar and join us to that we can showcase our musical heritage and our beautiful mountain setting.

Also, all harp singers participating in this event are invited to join the Organ Guild for the evening of June 30 in Knoxville for two final programs. At 8:00 P.M. at Church Street United Methodist Church on Henley Street, there will be an organ recital by Todd Wilson. At 9:34-11:30 P.M. will be a closing theatre party at the Tennessee Theater on Gay Street, with a silent film accompanied by Todd Wilson. Come join the fun.

CADES COVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING — Sunday, August 15, 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 of the wildlife in Cades Cove. For more information, call John at (423) 448-6445 or Tom at (423) 984-8585.

WEARS VALLEY SINGING AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH — Sunday, Sept. 12, 2 P.M.

This church is located on the north side of Wears Valley Road, about 2/3 of the way on Route 321 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 26, 11 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.

WEARS VALLEY SINGING AT VALLEY VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH — October 3, 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 (weekdays) at (423) 974-5421.

MUSEUM OF APPALACHIA HOMECOMING SINGING — October 9, 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.) CON'T ON PAGE 6

UPCOMING SINGINGS (CONT'D)

DOLLYWOOD SINGING — Sunday, October 10, 2:00 P.M.

This Singing is held at the Chapel in Dollywood. Martha Graham is the hostess. 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 Martha at (423) 453-3276. We thank Bill Cody for this yearly invitation.

MARYVILLE COLLEGE SINGING — Sunday, October 24, 2:00 P.M.

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 — Wednesday, November 24, 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 — Saturday, December 11, 10 A.M.

Sugarlands Visitors Center is in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Hwy. 441, just outside of Gatlinburg. Carl Whaley will pass out the shaped-noted hymnals for Christmas carols in the last half hour. We will sing till noon. For more information, call Martha at (423) 453-3276 or Bruce Wheeler at 974-5421.

“ He who sings
scares away his
woes. ”

— Miguel de Cervantes
1547-1616
Author of *Don Quixote*

SINGING SCHOOL 1999

The Epworth Old Harp Singers will sponsor a singing school, led by Gene McCammon, for both experienced singers and complete beginners. It will meet four times in April 1999:

- Tuesday the 13th
- Thursday the 15th
- Tuesday the 20th, and
- Thursday the 22nd

at 7:30 in the evening, at the home of Kathleen Mavournin and Bob Richmond, in Seven Oaks West, off the I-40 Cedar Bluff exit 378. They are one block west of Home Depot. Turn into Seven Oaks subdivision at the light at McDonalds.) Call them at 423-691-9506, or one of the other numbers listed in this newsletter, for more directions.

Cost of attendance is \$12 for the 4 sessions and used copies of *The New Harp of Columbia* are available for sale at the singing school. New copies can be purchased at UT Bookstore. The class should last 1 1/2 hours.

Since 1990, Gene McCammon, a music teacher with a wide experience in a number of singing traditions, has led several singing schools for us. These have been the first singing schools using *The New Harp of Columbia* since the 1940's.

A singing school provides instruction in the rudiments of reading music in the shape note tradition. Many Old Harp singers, myself included, have had no previous experience in sight reading, and this very old American music is really open to the boys (and girls) who sat in the back of the grade school music class and moved their lips. More experienced singers will have the opportunity to learn more about leading and about conducting a singing school, and everybody will enjoy the fun and fellowship and the knowledge that they are helping to perpetuate a wonderful American musical tradition.

- Bob Richmond

ON OLD HARP

We have had Old Harp Singers pass away in the last year. Many others that are physically unable to make it to enjoy the singing now. Old Harp Singing is an ever growing tradition, ever blossoming, so:

Will The Circle Be Unbroken?

Those who listen should now sing; Those who sing should now try another part; Those who sing two parts should now learn to lead a song; Those who can lead a song should learn another; Those who have the confidence to lead should help organize; Those who help organize should learn to lead; Those who lead should learn to listen.

Harp Singing's importance does not lie in the music; Harp Singing's importance does not lie in the poetry; Harp Singing's importance does not lie in the bread we break; Harp Singing's importance does not lie in the "lessons" we share; Harp Singing's importance does not lie in the traditions we keep; Harp Singing's importance does begin with the harmony we are willing to share.

The word was passed on to me by friends roaming around the mountains looking for some property to build a getaway place. They found a church that had "OLD HARP SINGING" on Saturday night. They talked to an elder of the church and during the conversation was asked if he knew of a group in Knoxville that sang the same. The reply still has me spiritually chewing on it for 15 years or more. "I know of them," "They only want to sing the music."

Many things ran through my head at the time. Is that what Jesus would have said? Was not the elder "Holier Than Thou"?

I wanted to talk to that elder, (though never important enough to find out the name of the church). If a man come unto you and say that he is cold, do you not give him your shirt? If he claims to still be cold, do you not give him your coat?

Christ always talked in parables, stories within stories, as you grow within the spirit

you find another story blossoming within. This should be no different with this elder I thought. If us poor hapless Old Harp Singer wannabees come unto them and I am cold, (of the Spirit) and wish to sing with you, do you not give them your spiritual shirt? If they/we claim to still be spiritually cold do you not give them your spiritual coat? Who becomes the warmer, those who give away the "spiritual" clothes or the ones who received them?

Reflecting back on my thoughts of then I find myself at the time being the self-righteous. A holier than thou package of my own. As I see it now the elder is both right and wrong. If you choose to belong to a community, for that community to survive, one must kick into the community pot that you drew from. If you go to singings and draw out for your use and go home feeling good about the day, that is good. We have that to share in abundance. Put away some of the best food ever spread on a table, your tummy feels good all day. The music, ah the music, you will be singing some of those songs in your mind well into next Sunday.

Harp Singing does not just happen. Thoughtful planning goes into each and every singing that occurs. Every one who shows up has a part to play. If someone does not or cannot show up everyone needs to step up and take their place.

Harp Singing took a turn for the worse about ten years ago, three days later it started to bounce back with a slow but determined bunch of people. Later, Charlie Clabo's funeral was an indication of what had happened, more so the funeral of Reford Lamons where singers, family and friends showed up to pay their respects to an elder who set the standard of what a Harp Singer should be. We sang it as if he were still with us. We were, we are family. In addition of being family we now as ever need to be aware of the next guy/woman who walks in the door. For they are the most important person there. It is said that the first shall be the least, the least be of the first. This is how we shall survive and grow. Amen.

-Larry Olszewski

EPWORTH PROPOSED SCHEDULE – 1999 SINGINGS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DINNER?</u>	<u>INFORMATION (CONTACT PEOPLE)</u>
March 14	Sunday	7:00 PM	No	Practice, basement of Laurel Theatre.
March 19	Friday	6:30 PM	No	Open the 29th annual Jubilee Festival, Laurel Theatre.
March 20	Saturday			Northern Harmony arrives. Meet at Laurel Theatre and put them up for two nights.
March 21	Sunday (3)	11:00 AM	Yes	Epworth Old Harp Singing, Laurel Theatre, 16th & Laurel Ave., Knoxville. Potluck at noon. (D) (H) (S)
March 28	Sunday (4)	1:30 PM	No	Oldhams Creek Singing, just off the end of King Branch Rd., Sevier County (N) (P)
April 4	Sunday (1)	5:30 PM	Yes	Easter Singing, Gooch-Mabbs Residence, 4401 Alta Vista Way, Knoxville (T)
April 13-15 & April 20-22	Tuesdays & Thursdays	7:30 PM	No	SINGING SCHOOL, 344 Seven Oaks Drive, Knoxville (I) (O) (X)
April 25	Sunday (4)	2:00 PM	No	Tuckaleechee Methodist Church Singing, Townsend (C)(K)
May 2	Sunday (1)	5:00 PM	Yes	Prodigal son John McCutcheon Singing and Potluck, Laurel Theatre, 16th & Laurel Ave., Knoxville.
May 9	Sunday			NO regular 2nd Sunday singing at the Laurel Theatre.
May 16	Sunday (3)	2:30 PM	No	Old College Singing, Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, TN. Refreshments after. (U) (V)
June 13	Sunday	7:00 PM	No	Practice, basement of Laurel Theatre.
June 20	Sunday (3)	11:00 AM	Yes	Beech Grove Primitive Baptist Church Singing, Sevier County (G) (A)
June 20	Sunday	3:00 PM		Wedding of Virginia Douglas and Gideon Fryer at the Laurel Theatre. Old Harp singers invited.
June 26	Saturday			<i>Prairie Home Companion</i> radio show in Knoxville.
June 30	Wednesday	12:30 PM	No	Organist Guild at Headrick's Chapel, Wear's Valley. Refreshments.
August 11	Sunday	7:30		Practice, basement of Laurel Theatre.
August 15	Sunday (3)	2:30 PM	No	Cades Cove Missionary Baptist Church Singing, Great Smoky Mtns. National. Park (C) (K)

- September-December to be announced in Next Newsletter.
- Tower Heights Baptist Church and Powell Methodist Church both have requests pending from 1998 to sing at their respective churches. Please be aware of potential schedule changes or additions to accommodate them.
- Anyone wishing to be put on Knoxville calling or e-mail list, please call Larry Olszewski at (423) 584-6633 or larryoharp@aol.com.

ON TRADITION

I had replied to Martha Henderson inquires on the traditions of the (Sacred) Harp Singings and she suggested I submit my reply to the multitude. I have added some since the reply to her.

- Larry Olszewski, Elder

First of all, the "HARP" tradition is not of singing of the music or the poetry, is of the tradition of "HARMONY." It is the harmony that people find within when they meet, when they sing and when they break bread. It is our heaven on Earth.

The moderm that we use to bring out our spiritual Eden is the music, the where-with-all to accept anyone and everyone to get up and lead a "Lesson," be it in the music, the poetry or in a memorial.

We sing the shapes in the tradition of learning, as a reminder to bring the least of our brethren and sisters into the fold, be they young or old or indifferent or fervent. The parent tradition states, "The first shall be of the least and the least shall be of the first." Every person there has their moment to lead or call out a lesson (song).

We sing in a square, each person in their own part, for our own pleasure, for our own needs. We share our spirit that we have inherited, by bringing other people into our square one with the kindness and strength and wisdom of those who have sung and led and organized before.

Religion is a part of the singings. A prayer to open, a prayer to close.

HARP SINGING IS A PARABLE, A STORY WITHIN A STORY.

1. The child's story is when you first come to the Singings. It is the fun and the challenge to read the shapes fast enough to sing the songs.

2. The young adults story within a story, is the social aspect of the singings, the interrelating people, the sharing of difficult songs, the dinner on the grounds.

3. The adults story within a story, is the taking responsibility for the joys that the community (s) share. The making sure that everyone has the opportunity to have the same spiritual feeling that you have when attending the Harp Singings.

4. The Harp Elders story is of Grace and beyond. The ability to listen, the ability to put the spirit of the Harp community before their own, with the uncertain knowledge that you will get it returned back tenfold.

God will get us in the end, so let us act the part.

If you put a person from Iuka MS, Chicago, IL, Buffalo, NY, Carrolton, GA, they will all be able to fit in at your Harp Singing. If they don't, you have strayed too far from the tradition.

There are no good singers, there are no bad singers, there are only keepers of the spirit. We there fore make a joyful noise unto the Lord. We are of one accord.

*Come, let us use the grace divine,
and all with one accord.*

*In a perpetual covenant
join ourselves to Christ the Lord.*

*I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound for the promised land.
O, who will come and go with me,
I am bound for the promised land.*



ON OLD HARP SINGING

Comment by George P. Jackson

(Taken as an excerpt from a thesis by George Eliga Webb on Union Harmony 1975 for the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Union Harmony was the forerunner to the Harp of Columbia, printed 11 years later by Swan.)

From Music of old, then, we have a number of modest survivals. But all these vestiges are merely reminders of what was an organic and vigorous phase of a simpler civilization. The gulf is deep and ever deeper from the music of yore and that of today. It is the gulf between the active and general participation in the making of simple music and a general participation in listening to the plethora of intricate music made by others. The masses of our commonwealth, like those in other parts, have sold the birthright of raising their voices in song for the mess of listening pottage. Can they but it back?

Jackson, *Musical Activities in Tennessee*, page 12..



JOHN MCCUTCHEON

May 2nd, Sunday evening at 5:00, the Epworth Old Harp singers' prodigal Old Harp Singer returns to Knoxville to do a concert at 8:00 p.m. at the Laurel Theatre. Last year, we had a potluck dinner and asked him if he would like to sing with us before his concert. We put some food into his stomach and had him sing 10 or more tunes with us. Bring a covered dish to share.

Last year, we also sang a couple of tunes to open his act on stage. We will meet in the basement. (Concert may sell out, you'll need to buy tickets for that separately.)

For more information, call Gideon at 524-3136 or Larry Olszewski at 584-6633.

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

The Knoxville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and any and all area harp singers will join together on Wednesday, June 30, 1999, to present a special program of "singing harp" to a busload of attendees to the AGO Region IV Convention. The time and location for this event will be 12:30-1:30 p.m. at Headrick's Chapel in Wear's Valley, Sevier County. The AGO will serve refreshments to give everyone a chance to get acquainted.

All harp singers participating in this event are invited to join us the evening of June 30 in Knoxville for two final programs. At 8:00 p.m. at Church Street United Methodist Church on Henley Street, an organ recital by Todd Wilson; and at 9:45-11:30 there will be a closing party at the Tennessee Theater on Gay Street and a silent film accompanied by Todd Wilson. Please join us.

A WEDDING!

Virginia Douglas and Gideon Fryer would like everyone to join in their wedding celebration June 20, 1999, 3:00 p.m. at the Laurel Theatre in Knoxville. They would like to include Old Harp Singers in their celebration.

NEW SINGING

PROPOSED: Jeff Farr of Greeneville, TN, is starting a group there. They are thinking of a singing school as well as an annual singing there. At one time, a large group of retired people got together to have an Old Harp Singing convention. It died out in the late 1920's when the retired people passed on and no new people had learned to sing the shapes. Jeff plans for some of his people to break in by joining the Singing School in Knoxville in April. For more information, Jeff's phone number is (423) 639-8211.

NORTHERN HARMONY ON TOUR

Northern Harmony in Concert MARCH 23, 1999 -- 7:00 p.m. MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Internationally acclaimed Northern Harmony, a Vermont-based collaboration of 20 singers and instrumentalists specializing in music from community traditions throughout the world, presents a concert on March 23, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Messiah Lutheran Church in Knoxville. Messiah Lutheran is at the southwest corner of Papermill Road and Kingston Pike.

Combining elements of early music, folk and traditional singing styles from different cultures, Northern Harmony transcends the normal boundaries of sacred vs. secular, or classical vs. folk music. Their eclectic repertoire encompasses music that is hearty, honest and emotional, featuring ear-grabbing harmonies, contrapuntal rhythms and a powerful, straight-toned singing style.

Their current concert program features fiery music from the American shape-note singing tradition and songs from the civil rights movement, village music from the Balkan countries, South African freedom songs and chants, ancient songs from Georgia, German Psalm settings from the 17th century by Michael Praetorius and from the 20th century by Hugo Distler, and a variety of vital contemporary works by New England composers.

Led by Larry Gordon, Northern Harmony is an unusual multi-generational group ranging in age from 14 to 53. It is made up of accordion, fiddles, clarinets, saxophones, tambura and drum, which sometimes metamorphoses into an unorthodox early music ensemble in works from the renaissance and baroque.

Admission to the concert is \$1.00 in advance (\$2.00 at the door). Tickets will be available at the Epworth Singing on March 21.

For further information contact Allan Hoke at the church office: 423-588-9753.

NOTES FROM ALL OVER

Chattanooga Singing
Saturday, August 14, 1999
[Sat before 3rd Sunday]
9:30 am - Covered dish lunch
Denson book
Silverdale Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN

We are glad to announce that Richard DeLong will be teaching a singing school the night before- yes, that's Friday the 13th- at 7:30.

We hope you will all enjoy our wonderful new singing space. The church is convenient to the interstate and several motels. More information about directions and accommodations will follow as we near the date.

There are several singings the next day within a 2-4 hour drive, including a New Harp singing up in the Smokies, at a historic old church in beautiful Cades Cove.

We hope you will begin now to make plans to join us.

- Linda Sides(linjanes@bellsouth.net)

John Lamb also has information about the August singing and our monthly gatherings on his web
page:[http://home.att.net/%7esecondmdus/fa
sola.html](http://home.att.net/%7esecondmdus/fa%20sola.html)

(The Sacred Harp singers are advertising their Singing in conjunction with Cades Cove. We shall return the favor.)



Old Harp Singing Yearly Dues:

1. One handshake or
2. One smile or
3. One hug or
4. One covered dish or
5. One "I can remember my name. What's yours?"

A PATCHWORK OF COMMENTS

I would like to thank Jubilee Community Arts and its director, **Brent Cantrell**, for support in publicizing the Old Harp Singings as well as **Karan Dotson** for keeping our mailing lists updated and printing our labels for us.

Also, thank you for all the contact people for their input on the scheduling and getting their singings organized on a yearly basis. **Allan and Sharon Hjerpe**, though removed from East Tennessee to Los Gatos, California, still have kept their hand in by designing the flash card page in this newsletter for the Singing Schools in April. **Alice Strange** has been doing a special mailer out for the newsletter to coordinate the calendar this year. **Ann Strange** is formatting the newsletter this year. She is now on the staff of *Metro Pulse*, our weekly newspaper here in Knoxville. **Anna Plante** has been engaged for an independent review of this newsletter, not only for spelling, content, and accuracy, but for newsletter thought content and creative outlook. Other contributors are **Doris DeSpain** for the Cervantes quote and **Bill White** of Greeneville for research into the history of Old Harp Singings in East Tennessee. **Debbie Billings** of Graphic Creations must also be thanked for the discounts we get for printing.

I believe that the "floppy" edition of the *New Harp of Columbia* is running out. Either a quick fix reprint will be in order or many

people would like a more durable hardbound copy edition would be apropos.

My suggestion in the past and getting much stronger now, is to see if UT Press would do another hardbound edition. This edition would be larger and include the 60 or so songs edited out of *The Harp of Columbia* when *The New Harp of Columbia* was first reprinted after the Civil War. We would most likely need a introduction to this appendix of missing songs (they are in the same shapes) and an update to Ron Peterson's introduction as to the status in 25 years of old harp singing since the University Edition was first put out.

If this would happen we would need person(s) to take on these projects:

1. Writing a introduction to the appendix;
2. Write an update to the status of East Tennessee Singings;
3. Coordinate the use of a clear copy of the Harp of Columbia for print. I know of at least two copies not in library or collectors' hands. I hope they would allow their use for this effort..
4. Financial backing for the purchase of enough copies to make it worthwhile for UT Press to print. Note: When the Hymn Society came to sing with us, I purchased 300 copies of the floppy edition. As those copies have sold out, at cost, to attendees of Old Harp Singings, that money has now come back into the dowry for the purchase of new books. That will be our seed money.
5. Coordinate our needs as bearers of the tradition with UT Press to put out this proposed edition.

Your thoughts and comments are welcome.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO OLD HARP NEWSLETTER

We will update our Old Harp newsletter mailing list for the year 2000. We have 600 people on our list, with about 50 being returned for new addresses or deleting. Please fill out the following to stay on the mailing list. \$3 covers our costs but if you cannot afford this, please let us know.

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City, St, Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Donation: _____