

Sacred Harp Colorado

January 2010

Who We Are and What We Do

The Rocky Mountain shape note singers exist to preserve and promote the music and the traditions of American shape note harmony along the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. We sing principally from the 1991 Denson revision of the Sacred Harp (Red Book), but use some songs from the Cooper Book (Blue Book). From time to time we will sing from other traditional books such as the Missouri Harmony and Norembega Harmony depending upon the spirit and the occasion. We welcome any and all to join us at our monthly singings held in the cities along the Front Range. Loaner books are available for use or purchase. Our monthly singings are usually held to the schedule supplied at the end of this newsletter, but holidays or special circumstance may dictate that we move a singing date. If you are new to us, please contact one of our members listed below for current location, day/date and time of a singing in your area.

Editorially Speaking

Happy New Year. This year by way of something different, each newsletter will be led by a Sacred Harp quotation captured from two posts which Robert Vaughn made to his blog late last year. I have become quite shameless in stealing stuff from Robert because he does find fun things to write about. I hope they will brighten your day as we go forward thru the year.

Quote of the Month

"Let music charm me last on earth and greet me first in heaven."

Book News For 2010

The Makers of the Sacred Harp – As a follow up to Mike Hinton's comment about this book and the interest shown in it at the convention, I followed up with a question to him concerning the publication date and price. His response is as follows:

Pete

This book is being printed by the University of Illinois press. The manuscript is completed and "in line" for publication. However, it will be some months until it is printed, perhaps by November 2010. The University Press will have it as part of a release of new books.

We will have copies available from the Sacred Harp publishing Co at less than retail prices. There will be both paperback and hard back editions of this book.

Hope you all are doing well. All is well in Texas - we finally got some rain!!

I believe the complete title is going to be: *And Form A Sacred Tune: The Makers of the Sacred Harp.*

Mike Hinton

The Story Of The Sacred Harp – Shortly after the exchange described above, I found this tidbit on the singings@fasola.org mail list:

From: PHNXMike@aol.com

I wrote a comment the other day and quoted something Dr George Pullen Jackson wrote in his book, published by the Vanderbilt University Press in 1944. Someone sent me a note asking where they could get a copy of the book. It has obviously been out of print for a long time. However, I did find the notice below on the Vandy Press web site. The book is being re-printed in March 2010. Advanced orders are being taken.

Buell Cobb, in his book, said this of Dr Jackson's book: The Story of the Sacred Harp (1944) was a brief summarizing account for the layman and for Sacred Harp singers themselves, who Jackson hoped would be proud to learn of the depth of the tradition they upheld.

For a little humor, in the back page of Dr Jackson's book, other books that he wrote are listed with prices. Also listed is the following: Copies of The Sacred Harp (\$1.50 plus 10 cents postage) are available and limited supplies of the 1849 Harp of Columbia (\$2 plus 7 cents postage) and the 1854 Southern Harmony (\$2 plus 7 cents postage) can be supplied by the author.

Dr Jackson's 1944 book has a great amount of information packed into 56 pages. And it is enjoyable reading.

Mike Hinton

The American Fuging Tune: Marks of Distinction - Maxine Fawcett-Yeske, Ph.D.

An interesting paper written by a lady who sang with us in Colorado Springs while residing there on sabbatical:

<http://www.music.nebrwesleyan.edu/fawcett-yeske-aft.pdf>

5th Pikes Peak Sacred Harp Singing

Where do the years go ?? Please make plans now to attend our 5th annual Pikes Peak Sacred Harp singing on the 27th of March. Held again in the beautiful parish hall of the Chapel of Our Savior in the Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, singing begins at 9:00AM. This year we offer a Friday evening singing school taught by Gaylon Powell of Austin, TX.

All Day Singing in La Junta 2010

The Harvest singing held here in 2009 was a great success leading me to think we should do this again in 2010. To facilitate the return of a Spring singing in Aspen Park, we will take a Fall date, but earlier this year to improve the chances of decent weather for traveling. Plan on singing with us on Saturday the 24th of October in Harmony Hall, La Junta from the Denson and Cooper books, but add an additional Sunday singing from the 7 shape Harp of Ages. I realize that this has us singing just one month after the Rocky Mountain Convention, but hope that the attraction of once again singing in Harmony Hall's great setting will once more bring you out to our town on the Arkansas. As an added inducement,

perhaps I can find someone to teach a 7 shape school Saturday evening.

Looking Ahead

All California 16 - 17 January [Denson Book] Templar's Hall, Old Poway Park, Poway, CA. For additional info see the San Diego Sacred Harp page available at sdfasola.org.

Tucson Annual Sacred Harp Singing Convention 28 February – 1 March [Denson Book] Sonora Co-housing 501 E. Roger Road, Tucson, AZ 85705. For additional information contact: Maggie Leonard [520]323-5049 or Paige Winslett [520]743-1268.

Pikes Peak Sacred Harp Singing 27 March [Denson and Cooper books]. Chapel of Our Saviour in the Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, CO 80906. For additional information, contact: Pete Mathewson [719]469-5241 or 71mgbgt41@gmail.com.

110th Annual Southwest Texas Convention 29 – 30 May [Cooper Book] Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, McMahan, TX. For additional information contact: Tom Owen, (512) 398-6075, or Curtis Owen, (512) 398-2017.

Camp Fasola - Sunday, June 13 (5:00pm) through Thursday, June 17 (8:30am) – Programmed for Adults – Camp McDowell near Double Springs, Alabama (<http://campmcdowell.com>).

Canp Fasola - Monday, July 5 (4:00pm) through Friday, July 9 (8:30am) - Programmed for Youth (ages 10 and up) and Adults under age 30 and families who wish to accompany their Youth – Youth will have priority – Camp Lee near Anniston, Alabama (<http://camplee.org>). Registration will begin January 1st.

Rocky Mountain Convention 25 – 26 September 2010 [Denson Book] Location and other details TBA.

Arkansas Valley Sacred Harp Singing – Saturday 23 October [Denson and Cooper Books] Harmony Hall #13 5th Street, La Junta, CO 81050. 24 October [Harp of Ages] Location TBA. For additional information, contact: Pete Mathewson [719]469-5241 or 71mgbgt41@gmail.com.

Where We Sing and How to Find Us

Arkansas Valley Regular singings are 4th Mondays of each month from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the home of Pete and Susie Mathewson 417 Carson Ave. La Junta. Contact Pete at 719/383-9056 or 71mgbgt41@gmail.com.

BOULDER Regular singings are 2nd Friday of each month 7-9 pm, at the home of Peter and Mary Lou Van Laanen. Contact Mary Lou for details at 303-447-9379 or e-mail her at vmarylou@indra.com

COLORADO SPRINGS - Sings regularly on the 2nd Sunday from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at the Pikes Peak Primitive Baptist Church 12th and Pikes Peak on the Westside. Please bring a dollar donation to the book fund. Pete Mathewson is the contact at 719-469-5241 or e-mail

him at 71mgbgt41@gmail.com.

DENVER Sings weekly each Monday except the first Monday from 6:40 – 8:40PM at St. Mark's Orthodox, 1409 S. Vine, Denver. Special singings may be arranged [in addition to the regular Monday evening singings] for out of town visitors to the Denver/Boulder area. Out of town singers should call Sharon Kermiet at 303-931-8445 or email her at skermiet@goodwilldenver.org and at coral96@indra.com to arrange a special singing. Bring a dollar as a contribution to the book fund. For the location of any specific singing, please contact Pat Dolan at 303-778-6297 or e-mail him at ruralplain@aol.com or Sharon Kermiet at skermiet@goodwilldenver.org.

FORT COLLINS - The singing is normally the first Monday of each month 7-8:30 pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 2000 Stover Street. Contact Hill Grimmert for specifics at 970-231-1197 or e-mail him at hill@sacredharpcolorado.org

Sacred Harp On The Web

Our local websites are Sacred Harp Colorado at www.sacredharpcolorado.org and the Rocky Mountain Shapenote Singers at <http://lamar.colostate.edu/~dakspk>. The national web site is www.fasola.org

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In Memoriam: Mary Mathewson June 5, 1915 – December 25, 2009

Not a Sacred Harp singer, but she did raise one.