

Sacred Harp Colorado

January 2008

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

New Year's greetings one and all. I was filing away the master for the December newsletter the other day and said to Susie "Well, there's another year in the can." Yep, 2007 is behind us, but that isn't the half of it for now we are looking at another new year and ever more opportunities to plumb the depths of our glorious music and its traditions. What better way to do that than committing to attend the Sacred Harp Musical Heritage Association's Camp Fasola at Camp Lee in Anniston, AL this summer. For those of you who met him in Albuquerque, you will remember David Ivey as a forceful communicator with a deep knowledge and love of the music. In 2008 David will once again assemble a fine staff of instructors and counselors to guide you thru a fascinating week's study of the music of the Denson Book, its structure, its history and the culture that surrounds Sacred Harp in America today. At this writing, I have not seen the Minutes Book for 07/08 and so I cannot address which singings will bracket the camp experience, but the year we went we were able to attend the Liberty Union, Muscadine Independence Day, and Cullman Courthouse singings- In all, nine consecutive days of singing which advanced my personal experience to a point where I felt that I could really begin to contribute to the growth of our local group. Don't miss this outstanding opportunity to share in this modern manifestation of the old time singing school and the growth of Sacred Harp.

History, Traditions And Culture – SHMHA Camp Fasola 2008

The Sacred Harp Musical Heritage Association is Pleased to announce that we will have two Camp Fasola sessions in 2008:

Friday, June 27 (2:00pm) through Monday, June 30 (10:00am) - Programmed for adults

Monday, June 30 (4:00pm) through Friday, July 4 (10:00am) - Programmed for youth (ages 10 and up) and adults under age 30 and adults who need to accompany their youth - Youth will have priority.

Registration will begin in January.

Camp Fasola

An Old-Fashioned Summer Camp for Learning and Singing Sacred Harp
Camp Lee Near Anniston, Alabama(www.camplee.org)

The Sacred Harp Musical Heritage Association will hold its Camp Fasola for the sixth consecutive year for learning Sacred Harp singing, history, and traditions. Camp Fasola is open to both youth and adults, beginners and experienced singers. Multiple daily sessions will be devoted to teaching Sacred Harp singing, as well as time for recreation, fellowship, and singing. All campers will be expected to perform some area of service during the week. More than 140 campers attended in 2007.

All meals will be served at the Camp Lee dining hall. Sleeping quarters will be dormitory style bunk beds with separate lodges for males and females. Camp fee includes air-conditioned lodging and meeting rooms, meals, snacks, t-shirt, and activities for those participating in all Sacred Harp sessions. Reservations will be available on a first come / first served basis and will open in January.

For additional information, contact David Ivey at c...@fasola.org or 256.881.5291. Also, see fasola.org/camp

About The Sacred Harp Musical Heritage Association

The Sacred Harp Musical Heritage Association (SHMHA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose purpose is the preservation and promotion of traditional Sacred Harp singing. SHMHA publishes the annual Directory and Minutes of Sacred Harp Singings book; sponsors the fasola.org website; and conducts Camp Fasola. SHMHA accepts tax-deductible contributions to support Camp Fasola and other projects to promote Sacred Harp singing.

Sacred Harp Musical Heritage Association
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Doddridge Revisited - And Will The Judge Descend

As you well know, I am developing a strong affection for Ted Mercer's O'Leary, Denson #501b with lyrics by Phillip Doddridge and not just because of its close physical proximity to Lloyd #503b. As with all Sacred Harp music that gets my attention I seem compelled to see if the author/lyricist intended any other words than those presented in our books. In this

matter, O'Leary is no exception.

For quite a while I have wondered why tunes in the Denson and Cooper books have provided but fragmentary representation of the poet's work, when full texts are readily available in Lloyds Primitive Hymns, various seven shape hymnals and on the web. Obviously, there was/is a need to conserve pages, but more than that I am now coming to see the Sacred Harp as a "tune teaching tool" which one can then go back and discover a wider range of lyrics: either to discover the poet's original set or to substitute a new set of words entirely from a different tune of the same meter – New Britain lyrics set to Mear for example. So now for those of you who have persevered thru all of this, Doddridge's 1755 hymn And Will The Judge Descend. Please read the punctuation carefully - It matters.

1. And will the Judge descend,
And must the dead arise
And not a single soul escape
His all-discerning eyes?

2. And from His righteous lips
Shall this dread sentence sound
And thro' the num'rous guilty throng
Spread black despair around:

3. "Depart from Me, accursed,
To everlasting flame,
For rebel angels first prepared,
Where mercy never came".

4. How will my heart endure
The terrors of that day
When earth and heav'n before His face
Astonished shrink away?

5. But ere that trumpet shakes
The mansions of the dead,
Hark from the Gospel's cheering sound
What joyful tidings spread:

6. Ye sinners, seek His grace
Whose wrath ye cannot bear;
Fly to the shelter of His cross
And find salvation there.

7. So shall that curse remove
By which the Savior bled;
And the last awe-full day shall pour
His blessings on your head.

Certainly does flesh out the story a bit, doesn't it ??

Looking Ahead

California Convention (Denson Book) 20 and 21 January 2008 in San Pedro, CA. Building H at Angel's Gate Cultural Center, San Pedro, CA. Contacts are: Laura Boyd Russell 310/450-3516 or Laura4belltower@verizon.net or Rick Russell russell_richard@smc.edu.

Fourth All-Day Singing and Dinner on the Grounds (Denson Book) 1 March 2008 in Tucson, AZ. The Arizona SH singers have expanded this singing to include a Saturday evening social and a Sunday (2 March) morning singing. More details are forthcoming. Your contacts for this event are: Maggie Leonard (520)323-5049 and Paige Winslett (520)743-1268 or tucsonfasola@earthlink.net. Susie and I attended this singing last March and found it to be one worthy of your support.

Hoboken All Day Singing (Cooper Book) 15 March 2008 in Hoboken, GA. This singing

features an evening singing from Lloyd's Primitive Hymns - a words only hymnal dating to 1841. Now that you have met David Lee, give me a reason for not going.

Pikes Peak Sacred Harp Singing (Denson and Cooper books) 22 March 2008 in Colorado Springs, CO. Saturday evening will be hosted at the Mathewson's with seven shape singing from the Harp of Ages – Join us, please !!

Southwest Texas Convention (Cooper Book) 29 and 30 March 2008 in McMahan, TX. Bethel Church is a perfectly wonderful place to sing and hopefully this year, we will be able to attend the Harp of Ages singing on Saturday evening.

Where We Sing and How to Find Us

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

DENVER Sings weekly each Monday except the first Monday from 6:40 – 8:40PM at St. Andrew's Church, 2015 Glenarm Street or St. Mark's Orthodox, 1409 S. Vine when St. Andrew's is not available. This group also sings monthly on the fourth Sunday, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in one of these two locations. 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.

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.

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 Grimmett for specifics at 970-493-8325 or e-mail him at hill.grimmett@comcast.net

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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