

SACRED HARP COLORADO

January 2009

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 Norumbega Harmony.

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.

Arkansas Valley Sacred Harp – Pete Mathewson

After a protracted period of stumbling around, it looks like we may have a start on a Sacred Harp group here in the Arkansas Valley. At present, the singers are meeting at our home in La Junta on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30 – 8:30PM. The December singing produced decent harmony from the five singers in attendance with good progress in singing the notes and chasing the lyrics when off the tune line. Hopefully, going forward, we can attract more members by word of mouth and some measure of publicity using the local on-line events calendar. While I can get impatient with the pace of any project, it helps to remember the time and effort invested by the singers who formed the nucleus of the Colorado Springs group over the last three and a half years. When we first started the remodel of this house in the spring of 2006, some of the design was focused on having a usable, if small, singing space and this has come right in our ability to accommodate 16 to 20 singers with reasonable acoustics in the dining room. Guests are always welcome and if you have family or friends living between Fowler and Lamar on US50, please mention us to them and remind them that no experience is necessary.

4th Annual Pikes Peak Sacred Harp Singing

Please mark your calendars and reserve Saturday March 21 to sing with us at the **4th Annual Pikes Peak Sacred Harp Singing** in Colorado Springs. There is no conflict with Easter this year and absolutely no better way to celebrate the birthday of Benito Juarez. See the attached flyer for additional information and directions.

Editorially Speaking

Each month I'll ask a question of general interest (or so it seems to me). Send me an answer and I'll put together those answers for the next newsletter. This month's question is: ***What is your favorite tune and why?***

Ted Mercer's *O'Leary* (p. 501) for its great tune craft and Doddridge's powerful lyric. Unfortunately, the book designer chose to leave out the final verse which can be found in Lloyd's Primitive Hymns and which brings closure to a cautionary tale:

Come, sinners, seek his grace,
Whose wrath ye cannot bear;
Fly to the shelter of his cross,
And find salvation there !

--Pete Mathewson

Wow, it's hard to pick just one! I'll choose *Africa* (#178), because I love the words of the 3rd verse, which speak to me personally. "Why do we then indulge our fears, suspicions and complaints." My personality type pretty much swims in fear all the time, and I like those words. And of course the harmony.

--Alyce Barry

It's hard to pick just one because love so many of the tunes! One of my favorites is *Natick* (#497). I love the lift and the rhythm of the tune, the strength of the lyrics, and the harmony, which always brings joy to my heart. And the fact that I know and admire Glenn Wright, the composer, is part of it too!

--Hill Grimmett

This is HARD! How can I choose? If I think about this for more than a minute, I'll come up with too many. So I'll answer quick with the first two that come to mind: *Martin* (#452b) - No matter what is going on in my life, Martin provides safe haven, in both words and tune. *Soar Away* (#455) - Oddly, one of the first songs I learned. I love the time shift and the fuguing. I hope to be able to lead it reliably some day. I know how to do it until I'm in the middle and *think* too much.

--Deb Robson

Camp Fasola

Registration is now open for Camp Fasola 2009 at <http://fasola.org/camp>

Session 1: Adult Emphasis
Sunday, June 14th/5pm – Thursday, June 18th/8:30am
Camp McDowell (<http://campmcdowell.com>) – Between Jasper and Double Springs, Alabama off Ala 195

Session 2: Youth (Age 10 and up) Emphasis
Monday, June 29th/4pm – Friday, July 3rd/9am
Camp Lee (<http://camplee.org>) – Anniston, Alabama

The Sacred Harp Musical Heritage Association will hold Camp Fasola in 2009 for the seventh consecutive year. Camp Fasola provides an immersive experience for learning and singing Sacred Harp music as well as fellowship with other singers. Registration is available on a first come / first served basis.

The camp is open to youth and adults with instruction provided for both beginning and experienced singers. Multiple tracks of classes suited to different experience levels will be taught. Traditional summer camp activities will be provided that will be focused to building and extending friendships of singers.

For additional information, see <http://fasola.org/camp>, email camp@fasola.org or telephone Jeannette DePoy at 404.237.1246 or David Ivey at 256.881.5291.

So here is February's question: What do you (or would you) say when a friend asks you why you sing Sacred Harp? Pitch in and help us keep this newsletter going. Send your comments to Hill at Hill@sacredharpcolorado.org NO LATER THAN JANUARY 20.

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 Singings weekly each Monday *except the first Monday* from 6:40 – 8:40 pm at St. Mark's Orthodox, 1409 South Vine. This group also sings monthly on the fourth Sunday, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the same location. Please bring a dollar donation to the book fund. For location confirmation or other info, 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 Singings 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 the first Monday of each month 7-8:30 pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 2000 Stover Street. Exceptions are Labor Day (September) and sometimes July – see the web site for info. Or contact Hill Grimmett for specifics at 970-231-1197 or e-mail him at hill@sacredharpcolorado.org .

ARKANSAS VALLEY Singing on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the home of Pete and Susie Mathewson in La Junta. Contact them at 719/383-9056 or e-mail them at busterbrown417@gmail.com for information and directions.

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 .

Sacred Harp Colorado Newsletter (interim) Editor:

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Come Join Us At The Foot Of Pikes Peak For An All Day

Sacred Harp Singing

Saturday March 21st 2009

9:00AM to 3:00PM

Chapel of Our Savior

Episcopal Parish in the Broadmoor
#8 Fourth Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80906

The Fourth Annual Pikes Peak Sacred Harp Singing is an opportunity for you to sing at the foot of the mountain that inspired Kathrine Lee Bates to pen the lyrics to one of our most beloved patriotic hymns – America The Beautiful. On Saturday the 21st of March 2008, we will again sing from both the Denson and Cooper books. Come share a great day of shape note singing and our fine Front Range hospitality including dinner on the grounds at noon.

Sacred Harp is four part a cappella harmony using a four shape notation. Since we sing for ourselves rather than an audience, new singers are always welcome and encouraged to participate. Interested listeners are equally welcome. Books are available for loan or purchase. Admission is free with donations accepted. Come and bring a friend.

Directions from Interstate 25 North or South: Take the Circle Drive exit [#138] and proceed West on Circle which becomes Lake. Continue on Lake toward the Broadmoor Hotel. Turn right on 4th Street to the Chapel.

For lodging information, please contact: Joyce Wood at 719/332-1162 or joycewood@q.com.

Other Activities: Saturday evening social with singing from the seven shape Harp of Ages. Sunday services at Pikes Peak Primitive Baptist Church 12th and Pikes Peak on the West side. Seven shape singing at 10:30AM, preaching at 11:00.

For additional information please contact: Pete Mathewson at 719/469-5241 or 71mgbgt41@gmail.com

Come Sound His Praise Abroad And Hymns Of Glory Sing