

Music Notes 3.8.20

Prelude

Heavenly Metal Bells

Introit (11:00)

Cherubs and Angel Voices

Hymn of Praise 490

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

BEACH SPRING

BEACH SPRING is an American tune from the *Sacred Harp* tradition. According to the official Sacred Harp website:

Technically, our style of singing is “shape note singing” because the musical notation uses note heads in 4 distinct shapes to aid in sight-reading, but it is often called “Sacred Harp” singing because the books that most singers use today are called “The Sacred Harp,” with the most prominent of these being the 1991 Denson edition. The term “sacred harp” refers to the human voice — that is, the musical instrument you were given at birth.

In 1844, *The Sacred Harp* was just one of more than 100 oblong hymn books published in the U.S. It has been continuously updated ever since. Along with other hymn books from the era, a handful of which are also still published and used, its repertoire of over 500 4-part *a cappella* hymns, odes, and anthems is part of the foundation of our vibrant oral tradition. There are dozens of living composers still actively writing new tunes within the traditional styles and shape note format. Other shape note books still in use today include *Christian Harmony* (using a 7-shape notation), *New Harp of Columbia*, plus several others, including some entirely new collections such as *Northern Harmony*.

Response of Praise 433

Sign Us with Ashes (stanza 2)

PHOENIX

Anthem

Hear Me, Redeemer

Henry Mollicone (b. 1946)

Mollicone is a modern opera composer of some notoriety; however, he has also written works for chorus and instrumental ensembles.

Hymn of Preparation 216

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ST. CHRISTOPHER

Offertory
Improvisation on "Simple Gifts"
Alice Jordan (1916 - 2012)

Iowa native Alice Jordan spent the majority of her life contributing to the cultural life of Des Moines. She was educated in composition at Drake University, Columbia University, and Union Theological Seminary, and composed hundreds of choral and organ works.

The tune SIMPLE GIFTS is often known as the Shaker song, originating among the 19th-century New Hampshire Christian sect. Aaron Copland brought it into wider popularity when he used it in his score for his *Appalachian Spring* ballet score (1944).

Doxology 618
O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High (stanza 5)
DEO GRACIAS

Hymn of Commitment 215
What Wondrous Love Is This
WONDROUS LOVE

William Walker, known as “Singin’ Billy” during his lifetime, compiled American folk tunes into a volume he called *Southern Harmony*, which was contemporaneous with, and something of a competitor to, the *Sacred Harp*. Walker would sign his name “William Walker, A.S.H” to claim the title of “Author of the *Southern Harmony*.” The tune WONDROUS LOVE was an American folk tune, which Walker edited and paired with the text of “What Wondrous Love Is This.”

Postlude
Processional on "Hymn to Joy"
Alice Jordan

In this piece, Jordan builds an organ processional around the tune composed by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827) for the last movement of his Ninth Symphony. We most often associate it with the hymn text, “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.”