Shape-note singing from the 166-year-old American tunebook, The Sacred Harp

The Sacred Harp is an 1844 collection of American hymns and anthems written in “shape notes,” using musical notes of four different shapes.

This is as authentic as folk tradition gets. Come experience this music as it was meant to be sung—with passion and joy, by anyone!

What people are saying:

"The four-part a cappella harmonies are claiming passionate converts from Chicago to California. They are drawn to the primitive, deep sounds, and to the sense of community 'old book singing' brings to all who sing and listen."

—Chicago Tribune

"Something of ineffable beauty … an antique, almost medieval quality."

—Wisconsin State Journal

"It sounds wonderful—and it feels even better!"

—All Things Considered, National Public Radio

"Intense, soulful harmonizing which seems to fill every inch of the room."

—Associated Press

Saturday, May 29 and Sunday, May 30, 2010

9:30 am - 3:00 pm, Ida Noyes Hall, University of Chicago, 1212 E. 59th Street, Chicago, both days. Map on reverse.

For housing, contact Susan Geil, (773) 561-2229 or srgeil@yahoo.com. Other inquiries: Ted Mercer, (312) 719-4075 or tmercer22@comcast.net; Lisa Grayson, liisa@publica.com.

We encourage everyone to sing with us, regardless of experience or perceived ability.
The singing is easy to reach by car:

From I-94: Take I-94 to the Garfield Avenue exit. Turn east. If you are coming from the south, the exit is at 57th Street, the Museum of Science and Industry exit. Continue west, past the museum, to Stony Island Avenue. (You will not be able to continue on 57th Street west of Stony Island.) Turn left. Go two blocks to 59th Street; the University of Chicago is on the west side of 59th Street. Turn left at the Woodlawn light. Ida Noyes Hall is one block straight ahead, at the corner of 59th and Woodlawn.

OPTION ONLY FOR SATURDAY*: Take Lake Shore Drive (Route 41) to 57th Street, the Museum of Science and Industry exit. Continue west, past the museum, to Stony Island Avenue. (You will not be able to continue on 57th Street west of Stony Island.) Turn left. Go two blocks to 59th Street; turn right. Continue 5 miles to Ida Noyes Hall.

*Lake Shore Drive will be CLOSED TO CARS from 5:30 - 10:30 am Saturday, May 30, for the annual "Bike the Drive" event. Bicycles, however, will be welcome! The Drive will be open to cars all day Saturday and on Sunday afternoon. More info at www.bikethedrive.org.

Public transportation to the singing:
From downtown Chicago, take the CTA Blue Line subway to Washington (at Dearborn Street) downtown; walk one block east to Washington and State Street, then follow the downtown directions above. From Midway, take the Number 55 bus to 55th and Woodlawn; turn right (south) on Woodlawn and walk four blocks to the singing.

If you are new to Sacred Harp singing:

The 25th anniversary of one of the biggest Sacred Harp singings!

Celebrate 25 years of the

MIDWEST CONVENTION
Chicago, Illinois • May 29–30!