

# Village Harmony

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PRESS RELEASE

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**Note to Editors: PR photos of Village Harmony are available for download at:**

<http://www.villageharmony.org/PR/> Please include in the release whichever dates below are relevant to your circulation area.

## **Village Harmony Presents Harmony Singing Traditions from Throughout the World**

Village Harmony, the unique teen world music ensemble based in Vermont, led by Larry Gordon and special guest leaders Dessi Stefanova from Bulgaria and Alan Gasser from Toronto perform at the Poore Family Homestead on Wednesday, August 20 at 6 PM For information call:.

The concert will include traditional music from Bulgaria, Caucasus Georgia and South Africa, American gospel and shape-note hymns, and renaissance works by Victoria. The 23 bold and talented teenage singers come from throughout the Eastern United States and Ontario. The a cappella voices will be joined on many numbers by a band of strings, brass, winds and percussion.

Village Harmony is an umbrella organization which every summer sponsors twelve traveling ensembles like this one, both in New England and in numerous foreign countries. . Each group develops its own unique sound, but all share common traits: a powerful, natural, unrestrained, vocal sound; a remarkable variety of vocal styles and timbres, as appropriate to the many varieties of ethnic and traditional music; and the vibrant community among the singers which always includes the audience in a joyous celebration. This particular group rehearsed intensively for eight days at a retreat center on Lake Simcoe near Toronto before taking their program on the road for two weeks of performances.

Stefanova is a dynamic young singer and choir leader, originally from Bulgaria and now living in London, England. In Bulgaria she sang with the world famous Filip Kutev choir, and she now leads the award winning London Bulgarian choir. The Bulgarian repertoire in the program features the striking village-style “hard-voice” singing timbre, lively irregular dance meters of 7, 9 and 11, and close dissonant harmonies.

Alan Gasser is a marvelous tenor singer, who teaches and leads several choirs in Toronto and at York University and sings and records with the Georgian trio *Kavkasia*. He will lead ancient sacred and secular music from Georgia, which features highly unusual harmonies and a darker, more sonorous vocal style.

Larry Gordon is the founder and Director of Village Harmony and has vast experience with both classical and early music and with ethnic singing traditions around the world. Since 1990 he has led Village Harmony performing and study tours to South Africa, Bulgaria, Georgia, throughout western Europe and across America. He will lead vibrant songs and dances from South Africa, always with accompanying dances, as well as contemporary shape-note songs and the works by Victoria (1548-1611) including the motet *O Quam Gloriosam*, and the first two movements of the mass based on this motet.

Village Harmony's many recordings and songbooks will be available for sale at the concert.