

VILLAGE HARMONY

SUMMER CAMPS & WORKSHOPS 2011

*We are now enrolling teen and adult singers for our 2011 programs.
Read below about our performance singing camps and weekend workshops
in New England, Oregon, Republic of Macedonia, Caucasus Georgia, the UK and Italy*

APPLY NOW:
www.villageharmony.org
OR CONTACT US:
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The concert is about to end. Twenty-three mostly barefoot teenagers grab at each others' hands and bow, sweaty and tired, intensely pleased with themselves. They grin broadly as New Englanders of every age rise to their feet in the old wooden church building, applauding, whistling, ululating. A note is sounded above the din and the young singers launch into a South African dance song, stilling the crowd long enough to allow them to make their way down the aisles to take a final ovation from the back of the building. As the young people, unleashed, dive into the crowd or escape outside, you remain rooted in your pew a bit longer, shaken to the core by what you've just witnessed. Where did that conviction come from, that powerful centered sound you never expected to hear from an amateur--let alone a teenage--choir? Look around: other moist eyes and stunned expressions tell you that you aren't the only one who sensed that something life-changing has just happened among the singers--and has been shared with the audience.

This scenario is played out with up to a dozen groups--teens, adults, mixed ages--each summer. Since 1990 the singers and instrumentalists of Village Harmony summer camps have been traveling and performing throughout an ever-widening swath of the globe, participating in cultural exchanges and delighting audiences with their heart-felt renditions of world folk music. Twenty-one years on, Village Harmony's recipe has withstood the test of time.

Start out with almost 300 self-selected amateur singers between the ages of 11 and 80, and divide into groups of 25-50 each. Sift in some two dozen well-seasoned music leaders gathered

from around the world. Sprinkle in a variety of languages and exotic cultures, and then saturate with vital and honest music chosen from some of the world's most powerful harmony-singing traditions. Blend well during a week of intense singing in some unique location. Treat the music with respect, and the participants with high expectations. To finish off, subject the entire mixture to the myriad challenges of a concert tour, ensuring that performances are polished to the highest sheen. The result? Harmony in infinite shades of the meaning of the word. Comradeship, exhilaration and heartfelt art of an extraordinarily high order.

Village Harmony runs camps just for teenagers, camps primarily for adults, and camps for mixed age groups. Each camp session is headed by a trio of music leaders fluent in a wide range of traditions and highly experienced as teachers. Our no-holds barred attitude toward what is possible has resulted in ensembles whose sound remains dynamic, unpredictable, and absolutely exciting year after year. With clear command of radically-varied singing styles and infectiously joyous stage presence, Village Harmony performances always knock people's socks off.

Village Harmony camp & workshop locations vary each year. This summer our camps will be held in New England, Oregon, Caucasus Georgia, Italy, and the Republic of Macedonia. Over the years we have also run summer camps in Canada, the UK, South Africa, Corsica, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Ukraine, Russia and Ghana. This winter will see our first winter camp, in South Africa.

During the rehearsal week, singers get to know one another, absorb the basics of new vocal styles and prepare a concert program. Rehearsals are focused and intense, usually six or more hours each day, with voice coaching and instrumental work between the group sessions. Written music is distributed for a lot of the repertoire, but many songs are taught solely by ear, and virtually everything is taught by example. Emphasis is placed on authenticity in the spirit of each musical genre, not just on its replication. Above all we strive for total conviction, and singing with joy.

Intense as this description may seem, Village Harmony groups tend to be extremely relaxed, non-competitive and democratic in nature.

The supportive and inclusive atmosphere at our camps is such that no one is afraid to give their all in performance and sing from the deepest place in their hearts. The framework of each residency is communal, with everyone pitching in to help cook and clean. The menu is primarily vegetarian, responsive to the tastes and culinary talents of the singers. We make time for soccer or frisbee, dancing, and searching out swimming holes. During the rehearsal week we often find time for a cabaret, when stand-up comics & little-imagined talents come to the fore.



The shorter teen and adult residential camps finish up with just one or two performances. The longer teen and international camps launch into concert tours, traveling and performing at a different venue each night; and the communities that sponsor us and make up our audiences also provide us with meals and overnight housing. Concerts are held in small-town community halls, in village churches, at folk festivals; we make a point of collaborating with local folk musicians, especially overseas. Foreign audiences in particular are thrilled and gratified to see us learning and performing their traditional music with so much care, respect and enthusiasm.

Regardless of whether one attends a shorter residential camp or one of the traveling ones, the intense immersion in new repertoires and the many challenges of preparing for the concert performances is exhilarating for all involved.



NOTE:

First-round application deadline for the 2011 summer camps is **JANUARY 1, 2011**

Apply online NOW!

TEEN & ADULT PERFORMANCE CAMPS IN THE US

NEW THIS YEAR: ALUMNI CAMP FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Alumni Traveling Camp: June 3-23

Led by Larry Gordon, Toby Tenenbaum

Aimed at experienced college-aged and young adult singers too old to participate in our New England teen traveling camps and with limited financial resources. Repertoire will feature Toby's compositions, early baroque music and a mix of South African, Balkan, shape-note and other ethnic styles. Rehearsal week will be at Larry's spacious house in central Vermont. Touring will include a large international choral festival in Montreal.

Rehearse in Marshfield, VT

Tuition: \$750 special young adult price



NEW ENGLAND CAMPS FOR TEENS

Teen Residential Camp: August 4-15

Led by Mary Cay Brass, Suzannah Park, Ken Shimizu

Geared for teenagers new to Village Harmony or who can't commit three weeks to a traveling camp. An especially exciting trio of folk singer/directors for this camp session! Traditional shape-note, gospel quartet and Appalachian harmonies, songs from Bosnia, Macedonia & Georgia, and more. The session will culminate with Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon concerts.

*Rehearse at Stump Sprouts, West Hawley, MA
Tuition: \$700*

Teen Traveling Camp I: June 24-July 14

Led by John Harrison, Natalie Nowytski, Olga Velitchkina

Delve into the study of east European ethnic vocal technique. Repertoire will be wide-ranging, from American gospel and British pub songs to south Russian folk songs and dances and village music from the Balkans. Instrumentalists are encouraged to come: Olga will coach any violinists in east European folk styles and will also teach Russian panpipes.

*Rehearse at Stump Sprouts, West Hawley, MA
Tuition: \$1225*

Teen Traveling Camp II: July 12-31

Led by Suzannah Park, Carl Linich, Megan Henderson

Suzannah's arrangements of traditional Appalachian songs bring out the best in young voices--and her enthusiasm and energy always pervade the camps she leads. Megan will teach a set of baroque works; and Carl will bring gems from his vast repertoire of Georgian songs. This camp will also have plenty of opportunity for instrumentalists to show off.

*Rehearse at Stump Sprouts, West Hawley, MA
Tuition: \$1225*

Teen Traveling Camp III: July 31-Aug. 20

Led by Patty Cuyler, Mollie Stone, Shergil Pirtskhelani, Aurelia Shrenker

Patty will teach American shape-note and gospel quartet songs, folk and sacred music from Corsica. Mollie will lead the group in South African dance-songs and gems from the classical renaissance period. Shergil will teach folk songs from Caucasus Georgia, and can teach interested singers to play Georgian stringed instruments for the concert tour. Aurelia, of AE, who will be a teaching intern for the camp, will lead us in some of her great Appalachian arrangements.

*Rehearse at Woolman Hill, Deerfield, MA
Tuition: \$1225*

NEW ENGLAND & OREGON ADULT RESIDENTIAL CAMPS

New England July Camp: July 24-31

John Harrison, Marytha Paffrath, Peg Larson

A 7-day residential singing camp for adults in the hills of western Massachusetts led by a dynamic team of leaders: John will bring high-energy gospel repertoire. Marytha, of the women's group *Libana*, will lead eclectic Balkan repertoire and lead the group in drumming. And Peggy, a vocal jazz musician from MN, will teach a fascinating mix of traditions, including Scandinavian yodeling and Celtic music.

*At Woolman Hill Retreat Center, Deerfield, MA
Tuition: \$675*

New England August Camp: Aug. 13-20

Larry Gordon, Kathy Bullock, Eva Primack

This 7-day session will be full of amazing singing and dance, including an eclectic selection of wonderful world-music harmonies. Kathy, a powerful singer-teacher from Berea, KY, will lead the group with soul-filled gospel. VH founder Larry will lead the group in South African & American shape-note songs, as well as a set of early music pieces. Eva, of the folk duo *AE*, will bring her expertise in Balkan folk songs. If you play an instrument, plan to join the ad hoc dance band.

*In residence in Ashfield, MA
Tuition: \$675*

Oregon Cascades Camp: Sept. 3-10

Mary Cay Brass, Val Mindel, Shergil Pirtskhelani

St. Benedict's Lodge in McKenzie, Oregon, at the edge of the Willamette National Forest, is an inspiring setting for singing. This will be our fifth in what is assuredly going to become a long succession of Labor Day week singing camps at the lodge. An eclectic American folk music set, songs from Caucasus Georgia, and Balkan two- and three-part songs will delight all. Great food! Bring your instruments to play for dancing.

*At St Benedict's Lodge, McKenzie, Oregon
Tuition: \$675*

WEEKEND RESIDENTIAL WORKSHOPS

Lake Morey Winter Weekend: February 22-24, 2011

Led by Larry Gordon, Patty Cuyler, Natalie Nowytski

Join us for our annual world music winter workshop, a rollicking not-to-be-missed New England event! American shape-note, Balkan, Ukrainian, South African, Georgian & Corsican harmony singing. As always, the weekend includes a Saturday evening dance.

At Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee, Vermont

\$320 double / \$240 shared / \$185 teens / \$175 commuters

Columbia River Gorge Weekend: June 3-5, 2011

Led by Patty Cuyler, Mary Sherhart, Aurelia Shrenker

A weekend of fabulous world music singing and dance on the beautiful Columbia River Gorge. Bring your dancing shoes for Balkan line-dancing and some contras. Like the Vermont weekend, usually a sell-out, so register early!

At Menucha Retreat & Conference Center, Corbett, Oregon

\$320 double / \$240 shared / \$185 teens / \$175 commuters

EarthSpirit UK Weekend: November 11-13, 2011

Led by Patty Cuyler, Larry Gordon, Ketevan Mindorashvili, Mollie Stone

A UK weekend of inspiring world music and dance taught by world-class leaders at the end of *Northern Harmony's* autumn European-UK tour. Choice of accommodations ranging from camping to a limited number of en suite double rooms.

At EarthSpirit, near Glastonbury, Somerset, UK

\$300 double / \$260 shared / \$200 camping / \$175 commuter

"What I treasure most is the gift of having met so many excellent people, having formed such strong bonds in such a short time. I am convinced it is the fact that we were making music together, singing with our very breath & being, that helped form those bridges."

Each workshop weekend begins with supper on Friday and finishes at 3pm on Sunday. Prices include 6 meals (4 for commuters).

SINGING, DANCE & LANGUAGE CAMPS OUTSIDE THE US

Republic of Georgia Dance Camp: June 23-July 3

Led by Vano Chincharauli, with members of Zedashe Ensemble

Our first folk dance camp, in the historic east-Georgian hill town of Signaghi. Expert instruction in a wide variety of traditional regional Georgian dance styles, singing, outings to neighboring regions both to visit dance troupes and to see significant historical sites. Wonderful food & wine culture. Stay on to travel or take part in the singing camp.

In residence in Signaghi, Kakheti, Georgia
Tuition: \$800



Republic of Georgia Singing Camp: July 6-23

Led by Ketevan Mindorashvili, Patty Cuyler, & the members of Zedashe Ensemble

Our 11th singing workshop in the Republic of Georgia. Georgia has one of the world's most ancient polyphonic singing traditions. The 17-day camp will be a rigorous music study-tour in some of Georgia's most unique sound- and landscapes. Our rehearsal week will be in the remote Svanetian village of Ushguli, with its astonishing 12th-c. stone towers and majestic mountains. Great music, great food, and way too many one-of-a-kind adventures to describe.

Rehearsal week in Ushguli, Svaneti, Georgia
Tuition: \$1,600

Georgian Language Course: July 25-August 3

Taught by Amanda Blasko, Gia Rokashvili

An intensive 4-week language & culture course immediately following the music camp. Team taught by a native Georgian and an American college instructor, with emphasis on practical skills and everyday situations. Morning language study will be followed by afternoon classes in cooking, crafts and cultural activities. There will also be a lot of singing, and excursions on the weekends. Participants will be housed with local families to facilitate language learning.

In residence in Signaghi, Kakheti, Georgia
Tuition: \$1600



Republic of Macedonia: June 30-July 13

Led by Mary Cay Brass, Goran Alachki, Larry Gordon & local teachers

Our second 2-week long camp in Macedonia opens with a 10-day retreat in the beautiful town of Berovo in the Maleshevo mountains of eastern Macedonia. We will focus on learning a variety of singing styles during the 10-day rehearsal period, with a succession of famous traditional singers coming in to work with us each day. Morning dance warm-ups and evening song and dance parties, gourmet food, daytime hiking, cooking classes. The camp will



conclude with a four-day concert tour through the countryside, ending in the capital, Skopje. Rehearse at Hotel Manastir, Berovo, Republic of Macedonia
Tuition: \$1500

Italy: July 15-August 1

Led by Carlo Pozzoli, Larry Gordon, Tijana Vignovic

We will begin our camp in the tiny village of Belisio Solfare in central Italy, rehearsing a program of renaissance & early baroque repertoire with Carlo, studying traditional Bosnian folk songs & dances with Tijana, and learning South African dance-songs and American traditional & contemporary pieces from Larry. Instrument players will love this session. There will be the opportunity for a number of day trips during our rehearsal week. Our concert tour will take us through Marche province to Bologna and the Milano, Lake Como and Friuli regions

Rehearsal week in Marche Province, Italy
Tuition: \$1,600

Note: Our January 15-February 6, 2011 Winter Camp in South Africa is already full. We are planning a similar camp in South Africa in 2012; information and applications will go online in June, 2011.

HOW TO APPLY

GO TO:

www.villageharmony.org

to read more about
our programs, faculty
and locations,
apply online through
the link
on our website
or download a printable
application form

Village Harmony is a not-for-profit
501(c)(3) organization based in
central Vermont
with activities
around the world
that welcomes singers of all colors,
creeds, ethnicities, nationalities,
orientations and
socio-economic backgrounds

Unlike choirs whose goal is to achieve a seamless blend of voices, **Village Harmony** is composed of ad-hoc, non-auditioned, inclusive groups whose basic demand of would-be members is that they commit to making good music and not hold back. Our teen camps are open to young singers ages 12-18; the alumni camp is aimed at college students and 20-somethings with low income. All of our non-US camps are open to teens & adults alike; and teenagers are welcome to join in any of our US adult camps or workshops.

Auditions aren't required to attend Village Harmony camps or workshops, but we do want to know a few things about each applicant and his/her singing background. Our experience is that Village Harmony camps are self-selecting: if the idea of rehearsing seven hours a day and galumphing about the countryside touring makes you excited, then we want you.

You may **apply for a camp session** online or by mail at any time after the season's schedule is announced. We will begin to send out acceptance emails for summer camps in early January, and thereafter singers will be accepted on a rolling basis until the camps are filled. Some sessions fill up early, but sometimes space opens up as summer approaches, so we encourage late applicants. Feel free to email or call us to inquire about openings. **First-time teenage applicants** to Village Harmony need to have a music teacher or other adult send us a reference separately. This form can be downloaded from our website.

Tuition covers basic camp expenses, including housing, ground transportation during camp, music and most meals. Singers enrolled in the traveling camps can expect to have to buy a few meals during the performance tour. Airfare or other transportation to and from camp is not included in the tuition. For overseas camps, we will investigate flight options but ask that you purchase your own tickets. We don't like to turn away any applicant for financial reasons.

You can download a **financial aid application form** from our website or during the online application process. This form must be fully completed and signed and sent in to the Village Harmony office as soon as possible to complete your camp application.

VILLAGE HARMONY
5748 Hollister Hill Road
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