

Matt Hinton - Shape Note Singing

- I. Introduction
 - A. Middle ages - Guido, founder of solfege
 1. A tool for teaching music
 - B. Eventually ended up with a major scale
 1. Fa, sol, la, fa, sol, la, mi
 - C. American Puritans
 1. Tradition of lining out
 2. A presenter who had a book
 - a. Call out first line
 3. 1640s *Bay Psalm Book*
 4. Problem w/only one having a book: very slow tempos so people could keep up
 5. So someone encouraged music education, which employed solfege
 6. So the music that made its way into *The Sacred Harp* was the earliest distinctively American music
 7. Started in New England, got pushed out of churches and the cultured scene
 - D. Counter movements push it out of the churches, moves south (Georgia, Alabama)
 - E. It is a tradition which stands in stark contrast to the way we normally do music in our churches (typified by an attitude of performance, rather than by congregational participation).
 1. Sit in a circle.
 2. Already different from our “presentational” arrangements for worship.
- II. THESIS: Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; sing and make music *to the Lord*. We are called to active participation in worship.
- III. Video Documentary
 - A. Unbridled, loud, exuberant singing
 - B. A tradition that has different priorities; no timidity