AND GLORY SHONE AROUND

Jordan Sramek, Series Editor

Harps of Welcome

Mt. Lebanon Shaker Society arr. Jordan Sramek

ROSE PUBLICATIONS

From the archives of *The* ROSE ENSEMBLE Daniel Mahraun & Jordan Sramek, General Editors

Source: Frederick William Evans, ed. Shaker Music. Albany: Weed, Parsons and Company, 1875.

About the source / general notes on genre:

To avoid religious persecution, the Society of Believers, more commonly known as the Shakers, began immigrating to America from England as early as 1774. Frederick William Evans (1808-93), reformer, editor, and Shaker elder, was born in Leominster, England. Having been influenced by the Owenites and a group of freethinkers and reformers in England, he sailed to the United States in 1820 where with his brother he edited several publications devoted to radical reform. After visiting a Shaker community in Lebanon, NY, he became a member and spent 57 of his last 63 years with the community as an elder. A born leader and natural orator, he became one of the nation's most influential Shaker leaders and published much on this topic, including the collection *Shaker Music: Inspirational Hymns and Melodies Illustrative of the Resurrection Life and Testimony of the Shakers.*

Frederick William Evans's extensive collection of Shaker hymns contains more than music. It features pages and pages of detailed instructions for proper vocal production and health. In one section entitled, "The Dependence of the Singing or Speaking Form of the Larynx Upon the Respiratory Effort," the reader is lead through a technical breathing exercise:

If the abdomen is drawn inward, the lungs will be compressed; and, if the chest is not allowed to expand, the air must be driven out through the windpipe, but so noiselessly will it escape, that its flow will be almost imperceptible. And now take notice again – the breathing was attended by a decided effort; the breath was almost or quite inaudible.

Hymns in this collection are attributed only to particular Shaker communities—Mt. Lebanon and Groveland, New York; Enfield, Connecticut; etc.

Text: Mt. Lebanon Shaker Society

Music: Mt. Lebanon Shaker Society

Editorial method / notes:

Spelling, punctuation, and usage have been modernized.

Performance suggestions:

The harp part may be played by guitar.

Duration: 2m 30s



The Rose Ensemble's recording, And Glory Shone Around: Early American Carols, Country Dances, Southern Harmony Hymns, and Shaker Spiritual Songs, is available on most download and streaming platforms.

Harps of Welcome

S solo, SSA, folk harp

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