

VILLAGE HARMONY 2017 SUMMER CAMPS

World music camps in New England, the Midwest, Oregon,
Lithuania, the Republic of Georgia and South Africa

*"It's been a long time since I was so moved by either singing or listening.
Words fail me, but thank you so much for sharing yourselves with us. You remind me of 'what it's all about.'"*



Since 1990 the teen & adult singers of Village Harmony camps have been traveling and performing throughout New England and an ever-widening swath of the globe, participating in cultural exchanges and delighting audiences with their heart-felt renditions of unusual choral music from around the world.

Village Harmony Camp is an un-auditioned, inclusive program whose basic demand of would-be members is that they be honestly invested in making music. The result has been ensembles whose sound remains dynamic and unpredictable—and absolutely exciting year after year. With seemingly easy command of phenomenally varied singing styles and infectiously joyous stage presence, Village Harmony ensembles *always* knock people's socks off.

Each camp session begins with a week of rehearsal in residence somewhere. Our US rehearsal retreats this coming year will take place in western Massachusetts, western Michigan and the Oregon Cascades. Our overseas programs will meet in rural S. Africa, Lithuania and the Republic of Georgia.

Our basic model for each camp session, regardless of location, is the same. During the rehearsal week singers get to know one another and their music. Participants learn the basics of new singing styles and prepare a concert program under expert directors and with emphasis on the cultural context and authentic vocal technique of the genres making up each session's particular musical tapestry. Rehearsals are long and intense—six hours or more each day—with individual voice coaching

and small ensemble and instrumental work between group sessions. We place tremendous emphasis on authenticity, understanding the spirit and vocal style of each musical genre, and appreciating the joy of singing together and with conviction.

Within this rigorous structure camp groups tend none-the-less to be very relaxed and non-competitive, with a deliberately democratic atmosphere. The framework of each residency is communal, with everyone helping to cook and clean. The menu is primarily vegetarian, and is responsive to the tastes, dietary needs and culinary talents of camp participants. There is always time for frisbee, dancing, volleyball and searching out swimming holes. During the rehearsal week there is usually an evening cabaret, where campers are encouraged to flaunt their flair for music, stand-up comedy or random talents.

After the rehearsal week each session takes its show on the road. The shorter residential camps wrap up with a short concert series within driving distance of their retreat center. But for participants in the traveling camp sessions the adventure is just beginning! After the first concert, everyone and everything gets packed up as the group embarks upon a one- to two-week-long concert tour. While on tour the ensemble travels nearly every day—stopping en route to hike and swim and explore sites of interest—and performs virtually every night.

The intense immersion in new repertoires and the myriad challenges of polishing concert performances to a high sheen are exhilarating for all involved, and produce a close community by the end of camp. And whether studying in the US or overseas, campers emerge from their travels with Village Harmony with broadened cultural horizons—and not just from the program itself. Singers come from all walks of life and from all over North America—and, increasingly, from around the world—to attend our camps.

Thanks to the generous contributions of our alumni and their parents, we are able to provide financial aid to nearly all applicants who need a tuition reduction in order to attend one of our New England or Midwest teen camps. Each year we also aim to subsidize airfare and visa costs for economically-disadvantaged students coming to the US from abroad.



TEEN & ADULT PERFORMANCE CAMPS IN THE US

NEW ENGLAND SUMMER CAMPS FOR TEENS

New England Teen Traveling Camp I: June 19-July 8

Led by Larry Gordon, Bongani Magatyana, Samira Merdzanic

This camp features an international trio of leaders: Bongani Magatyana from Capetown South Africa and Samira Merdzanic from Bosnia, and Village Harmony founder Larry Gordon. The tour itinerary will include Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont.

*Rehearse at Stump Sprouts, Hawley, MA
Tuition: \$1375*

New England Teen Traveling Camp II: July 6-25

Led by Avery Book, Gideon Crevoshay, Heidi Wilson

This session will be led by a team of three of Village Harmony's lively and talented young teachers. Concert repertoire will include American shape note pieces; Georgian, Corsican and Sardinian traditional songs; social movement songs; and some of Heidi's original pieces.

*Rehearse at Stump Sprouts, Hawley, MA
Tuition: \$1375*

New England Teen Traveling Camp III: July 27-August 15

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, Hawley, MA
Tuition: \$1375*

New England Teen Residential Camp: August 4-13

Led by Larry Gordon, Will Thomas Rowan, Lynn Mahoney Rowan

Our 9-day camp for teens new to VH and for those who can't commit to a 3-week traveling camp. Traditional shape-note, gospel quartet and Appalachian harmonies, songs from Lithuania, S. Africa, the Balkans & more. The session will culminate with two concerts.

*In residence in Ashfield, MA
Tuition: \$775*

NEW ENGLAND ADULT RESIDENTIAL CAMP

New England Adult Camp: July 15-22

Kathy Bullock, Bongani Magatyana, Larry Gordon

A 7-day residential singing camp for adults in the hills of western Massachusetts led by an especially exciting trio of folk singer/directors. Our new venue, the Buxton School, has a beautiful campus with excellent singing and dancing spaces. The camp will conclude with two concerts.

*At Buxton School, Williamstown, MA
Tuition: \$750; \$50 supplement for double room, \$100 supplement for single room*



MIDWEST TRAVELING TEEN CAMP

Midwest Traveling Camp: July 6-23

Led by Val Mindel, Lysander Jaffe, Nadia Tarnawsky

Village Harmony's fifth teen summer camp in the Midwest. Rehearsal week will be split between Ronora Lodge in Watervleit, MI and Into the Woods Retreat in West Olive, MI. Following the rehearsal period the group will go on a 10-stop performance tour that will include stops in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Ohio, with a final concert in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago. Substantial financial aid is available for this camp for those who need reduced tuition in order to attend.

*Rehearse in western Michigan
Tuition: \$1175*



PACIFIC NORTHWEST ADULT RESIDENTIAL CAMP

Oregon Cascades Camp: July 30-August 6

Mary Cay Brass, John Harrison, Carlos Jurado
St. Benedict's Lodge in McKenzie, Oregon, at the edge of the Willamette National Forest, is an inspiring setting for singing. An eclectic American and British folk music set, songs from Colombia, 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: \$750*

INTERNATIONAL STUDY-PERFORMANCE CAMPS

For teens & adults. We hope to make these programs affordable for high school & college student participation by offering youth discounts. Airfare is separate.

Lithuania:

June 30-July 13

Led by Will Thomas Rowan, Mary Cay Brass, Artūras Sinkevičius, Inija Trinkūnienė

Village Harmony's inaugural camp in Lithuania

will focus on studying songs and dances from the south-western Žemaitija region and the distinctive Sutartinės singing tradition from the Aukštaitija region. We will work on this repertoire with members



of the Külgrinda Ritual Folklore Group. In addition we will be visiting traditional singers in their home villages to share music. During the camp session we will use as our base the Old Gegužinė Farmstead in the center of Lithuania an hour from the medieval city of Kaunas.

Tuition: \$1700 adults/\$1375 youth



Republic of Georgia:

July 9-23

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

Our 15th singing workshop in Georgia, which has one of the world's most ancient and exciting polyphonic singing traditions. We will learn songs from both western and eastern Georgia but will focus on the ornamented folk songs of the K'akheti region. The two-week long residential camp will be based in Signaghi, a beautiful historic walled hill-town overlooking the Southern Caucasus mountains in eastern Georgia. The camp will include cooking lessons, group outings throughout the region, and a multi-day foray into the highlands of Khevsureti or Tusheti to meet with local singers, hike and explore by horse-back. Come prepared to feast!

Tuition: \$1700 adults/\$1375 youth

South Africa:

July 31-August 20

Led by Matlakala Bopape, Bongani Magatyana, Patty Cuyler, with members of local choirs

Our 9th study-performance camp in South Africa. You will come away from this 3-week adventure—which will take us from the rural far northeast of the country to the townships of Cape Town—with an insider's understanding of the musical and cultural diversity of South Africa. Rehearsal week at the Nylesvley Nature Reserve in Limpopo province following which we will begin a two-week performance tour, meeting up with local choirs and dance groups and enjoying the hospitality of our sponsoring church and school groups and home-stay hosts. We will fly to Cape Town for our final week of touring.

Tuition: \$2100 adults/\$1700 youth

ANNUAL WINTER WEEKEND

Lake Morey Winter

Weekend: February 24-26

Led by Larry Gordon, Mary Cay Brass, Will Thomas Rowan

Join us for our annual world music winter workshop, a rollicking not-to-be-missed New England event.

American shape-note, Balkan, Lithuanian, South African,

Georgian & Corsican harmony singing. As always, the weekend includes a Saturday evening dance. Great company, accommodations & music!

At Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee, VT

\$320 double/\$240 shared/\$200 teens/\$175 commuters



The workshop weekend begins with supper at 6pm on Friday and finishes at 3pm on Sunday.

"What I treasure most is the gift of having met so many excellent people, forming 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."

"Ever since the Village Harmony singers visited and sang at my school a few years ago, I have wanted to take part in that amazing pouring forth of sound and emotion that I witnessed.

As I was sitting there, enjoying the beautiful harmony of voices, I was shocked at how happy and joyous the singers looked. I had NEVER seen anyone, especially teenagers, ever show that much enthusiasm while singing before. I was also surprised that there, in front of me, was a group of people who were acting out exactly what I had always wanted to be doing when singing before, but had always held back."

"Actually learning music from throughout the world shows you so many drop dead gorgeous singing traditions, exposes you to music that moves you down to the very marrow, maybe because it's not familiar, maybe because it really is that amazing. And it makes you exercise so many different ways of singing that you start to figure out the ways that work best, not just the ways that you've always done it.

Overall, it's sort of like feeding the addiction you never knew you had for the chocolate that nobody else has discovered yet."

"The emphasis on process, and community—all the ways that we were encouraged to be people who sang, not singers—is at the core of Village Harmony's musical achievements."

"What's moved me (almost obsessed me) in the four or five concerts I've heard has been each group's ability to sound from some single powerful center, some shared conviction, without ever getting fussy or virtuosic. Art of a high order, a very high order, made by ordinary people."

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, USA
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 11-19. Older teenagers are also welcome to join in any of our 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.

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.

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
Marshfield, VT 05658

VILLAGE HARMONY
SUMMER CAMPS & WORKSHOPS 2017