

# VILLAGE HARMONY 2018 SUMMER CAMPS

World music study-performance camps in New England, Oregon,  
Bosnia, Corsica, Germany and the UK

*"What these young ones and their directors give so generously on their tours, one amazing concert after another, represents, in my view, a very significant contribution to beauty, to truth and to peace in the world. Their concerts are truly a marvel to experience, even "just" as an audience member."*



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 and the Oregon Cascades. Our overseas programs will meet in eastern Germany, the northern UK, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Mediterranean island of Corsica.

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. 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.



We are committed to making Village Harmony programs accessible by keeping expenses and tuition fees as low as possible, and we offer generous financial aid. In recent years we have greatly expanded our scholarship program for inner-city students in our teen camps, as well as offering full support to economically-disadvantaged students from eastern Europe and South Africa to come to the US to participate in our teen traveling camps.



## TEEN & ADULT PERFORMANCE CAMPS IN THE US

### NEW ENGLAND TRAVELING & RESIDENTIAL TEEN CAMPS

### NEW ENGLAND & OREGON RESIDENTIAL ADULT WEEKS



#### New England Teen Camp I: June 21-July 10

*Led by Larry Gordon, Brendan Taaffe, Heidi Wilson, Tatiana Sarbinska*

Repertoire will include Renaissance works with instrumental accompaniment, shape-note tunes and folk music from South Africa, Corsica, the French Occitan region and Appalachia. There will be a lot of folk dancing—Balkan, English, contras—at this session. We'd love to have singers who are also instrument players attend. Following the rehearsal week an ensuing tour will take the group throughout New England.

*Rehearse in Ashfield, MA  
Tuition: \$1375*

#### New England Teen Camp II: July 6-25

*Led by Will Thomas Rowan, Artūras Sinkevičius, Lynn Mahoney Rowan*

VH alumni Will Thomas Rowan and Lynn Mahoney Rowan will lead the group in an eclectic selection of their own compositions, songs from Bulgaria, Scandinavia, and Quebec, and Italian madrigals. Singer-composer Artūras Sinkevičius will teach 2- and 3-part Lithuanian songs and will put together a band with any interested instrumentalists. The group will rehearse for a week in western Massachusetts, with an ensuing 12-day tour including some of our favorite stops in rural New England. *Rehearse at Stump Sprouts, Hawley, MA  
Tuition: \$1375*

#### New England Teen Camp III: July 26-August 14

*Led by Matlakala Bopape, Avery Book, Lysander Jaffe, Sinead O'Mahoney*

This will be a great session for singers who want to stretch their musical boundaries by learning and performing music from some of the most exciting polyphonic traditions in the world: South African gospel, folk and struggle songs, and traditional songs from Sardinia, Corsica, and Albania, as well as American shape-note and protest songs. Lysander will lead any singer-instrumentalists in Balkan band pieces.

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



#### New England Teen Residential Camp: August 3-12

*Led by Mary Cay Brass, John Harrison, Jeremy Carter-Gordon*

This is our nine-day camp, aimed at teenagers new to Village Harmony or those who don't have time to commit three weeks to a traveling camp. Traditional shape-note, gospel quartet and Appalachian harmonies, vocal jazz, songs from the Balkans & more. The session will culminate with two concerts. The camp will be in residence in a delightfully eccentric Victorian mansion with a nearby swimming lake in western Massachusetts.

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



#### Oregon Cascades Camp: July 29-August 4

*Kathy Bullock, Carl Linich, Gideon Crevoshay*

The week, famous among VH camps for its kitchen staffed with singing chefs, will include a Georgian feast at mid-week. St. Benedict's Lodge in McKenzie, Oregon, at the edge of the Willamette National Forest, is an inspiring setting for singing. Black spirituals and gospel music, songs from Caucasus Georgia, and traditional and ancient forms of singing from the US and the Mediterranean. Bring your instruments to play for dancing.

*At St Benedict's Lodge, McKenzie, Oregon  
Tuition: \$750*

#### New England Adult Camp: August 18-25

*Suzannah Park, Matlakala Bopape, Gideon Crevoshay*

A 7-day residential singing camp for adults in the hills of western Massachusetts led by an especially exciting trio of directors. Dance-songs from South Africa, traditional Appalachian songs, shape-note music and sea shanties from America, music from Sardinia and Corsica, and more. 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*

# INTERNATIONAL STUDY- PERFORMANCE CAMPS

*For teens & adults. We try to make these programs affordable for high school & college students by offering youth discounts. Transportation to camp is separate.*

## **Corsica: June 19-July 7**

*Led by Patty Cuyler, Jean Etienne Langianni, Frederic Vesperini, Mollie Stone, Aurelia Shrenker*  
Our eight VH camp in Corsica since 2004, this is a 19-day session intended for experienced students and adults who are confident enough to tackle the challenges of learning Corsican traditional music—with its elaborate ornamentation and precise intonation—by ear, and to sing one on a part in a small ensemble. We will be based in Canari in



rooms and apartments in *I Fioretti*, a renovated 18th-century convent turned *gite*. After the initial period we will give a series of concerts of our own in some of Corsica's beautiful village churches and explore the island, with a 2-night stay in a coastal village near Ajaccio.

*Tuition: \$1900 adults/\$1675 youth*

## **Bosnia-Herzegovina:**

**June 25-July 9**

*Led by Mary Cay Brass, Avery Book, Samira Merdzanic, Vahidin Omanovic*

Our fourth camp in Bosnia, in collaboration with the *Center for Peacebuilding* in the town of Sanski Most. Participants in this camp will explore Bosnia's rich, diverse vocal music from both village and urban traditions of the Croatian, Serbian and Muslim peoples who live there. After our rehearsal week in Sanski Most we will travel to Jajce, Donji Vakuf, Bugojno, Konjic, Fojnica and finally Sarajevo.

The camp is already nearly full, with space left only for youth singers and/or men.  
*Tuition: \$1700 adults/\$1375 youth*

## **Germany-Estonia: July 14-August 1**

*Led by Larry Gordon, Bongani Magatyana, Nathaniel Damon*

This session begins in residence in Laage, a small town in former East Germany, and ends with five days at the *2018 Europa Cantat Festival* in Tallinn, Estonia. Camp repertoire will feature South African songs and dances, traditional Georgian, Balkan and American songs and a set of early music. A six-day performance tour around Mecklenburg, in Buchholz and in Hamburg will be followed by a short flight to Tallinn where we will spend our final days. Registration, food and lodging at *Europa Cantat* is included in the tuition price; airfare from Hamburg to Tallinn is extra.

*Tuition: \$1900 adults/\$1675 youth*



## **Northern UK: August 6-20**

*Led by Larry Gordon, Bongani Magatyana, David Oliver*

Our Northern UK camp features traditional instrumental dance music and we are looking for good instrumentalists (and dancers) as well as singers. During the rehearsal week we will have morning and evening dance sessions and on tour we will present some contra and ceilidh dances in our concert program. Singing will focus on South African dance-songs, American shape-note music, Balkan songs, and English traditional and political songs. A seven day tour will include Northumberland, southwest Scotland and the Lake District. The two-week program will culminate with a workshop and performance at the *Whitby Folk Week*, one of the UK's biggest folk festivals.  
*Tuition: \$1700 adults/\$1375 youth*

# ANNUAL WINTER WEEKEND

## **Lake Morey Winter**

**Weekend: February 23-25**

*Led by Patty Cuyler, Larry Gordon, Gideon Crevoshay*

Join us for our annual world music winter workshop, a rollicking not-to-be-missed New England event. American shape-note, Balkan, South African, Georgian, Sardinian & 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.***

*"This was my first year attending Village Harmony's Winter Weekend at Lake Morey. As an experienced amateur singer, I found the musical experience to be far beyond any I've ever been exposed to... Truly a remarkable weekend!"*

*"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."*

*"You need to keep making camps in Bosnia. Our presence there was truly healing for the Bosnians (I think), and for us it was magical, tragic, beautiful and sad at the same time. Bosnia is a very wounded country, but we truly felt as if our singing made a difference (one concrete example: one of the Bosnian youngsters in the group said that through our singing and our 'foreign' eyes she felt for the first time that Bosnia was a country worth staying in...)"*

*"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](http://www.villageharmony.org)

to read more about our programs, faculty and locations, and **APPLY ONLINE through the link on our website.**

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 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.

**We offer generous financial aid for our teen camps.** 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  
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2018 SUMMER CAMPS & WORKSHOPS

*"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."*