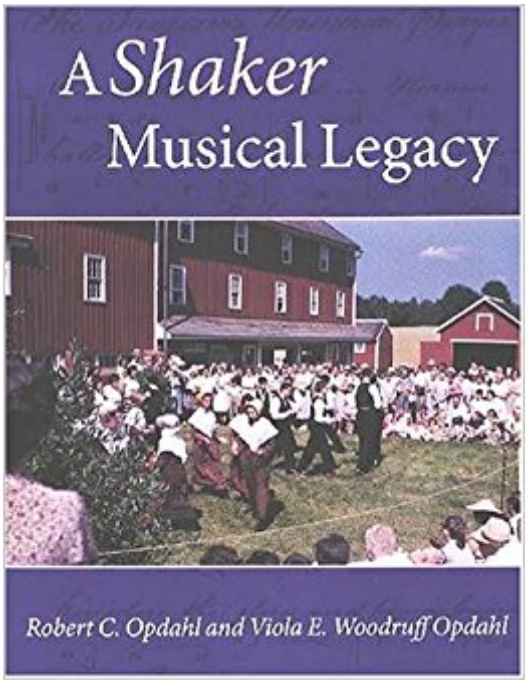
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A Shaker Musical Legacy (Revisiting New England)



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Synopsis

This fascinating book brings more than one hundred previously unpublished Shaker songs to the attention of scholars, performers, and aficionados of folk music. A Shaker Musical Legacy introduces Shaker songs and dances that Brother Ricardo Belden, the last male member of the Hancock Shakers, gave in original manuscript form to Jerry and Sybil Count, the first directors of the Shaker Village Camp. The Opdahls have selected from and transcribed this music and included dance directions to honor Brother RicardoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s hope that doing so would keep alive a part of the Shaker heritage. The songs are transcribed as modern musical scores for use by contemporary musicians and singers. Many examples are also shown in their original Shaker musical notation. Step-by-step instructions show how to perform the dances as the Shakers themselves danced them. Explanatory notes introduce each of nine musical sections.

Book Information

Series: Revisiting New England

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“The Shakers had between 4000 and 6000 members at the height of its popularity in the 19th century. Today, the sect is nearly extinct, and researchers like the Opdahls are eager to preserve its musical legacy of nearly 10,000 songs and dance tunes . . . [the Opdahls] add songs to the repertory.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Library JournalÃ¢â ¬Å“Learning about the ShakersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ history and development by way of their music has just been made easier and more fascinating.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Journal, Shaker Historical SocietyÃ¢â ¬Å“[O]utstanding . . . a

magnificent volume.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Catholic Observer (Springfield, MA)

Ã¢â ¬Å“An unusual, original volume. It certainly will become one of the most useful treatments of Shaker music ever published.Ã¢â ¬Â• (David Starbuck, author of Neither Plain Nor Simple: New Perspectives on the Canterbury Shakers (UPNE, 2003))Ã¢â ¬Å“Tremendously valuable . . . useful to school and community choirs, community song leaders, and even classroom teachers . . . The dance descriptions and diagrams are a model of clarity.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Larry Gordon, director of Northern Harmony/Village Harmony)

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