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**Northern Harmony World Music Choir Concert and Singing Workshop March 26-27 in Glasgow**

Northern Harmony, the dynamic and perennially popular world music choir based in Vermont, USA returns to Glasgow for a concert and a singing workshop: the concert on Saturday 26 March at 7:30 at Hillhead Baptist Church, Creswell Street in Glasgow, G12 8AE; and the workshop on Sunday, 27 March 2-4 pm at The Old Barn, Pollok Country Park, Glasgow G41 4SN , Suggested donation at the door for for either event is £10, £6 for students. For more information contact 07906 179941 or harry@muldoonspicnic.org.uk.

The ten brilliant singers of Northern Harmony present a thrilling mix of world harmony traditions including South African songs and dances, traditional polyphony from Georgia, Corsica, and the Balkans, American shape-note singing and quartet gospel, and motets by Heinrich Schütz and Hugo Distler. Through 17 European tours since 1993, Northern Harmony has won a wide reputation for their remarkable command of the different singing styles and timbres appropriate to these different traditions. The two and a half month 2016 tour includes Caucasus Georgia, northern Germany, England, Scotland and the northeastern US.

Northern Harmony, led by Larry Gordon, is the highest level performing group under the umbrella of the world music organization Village Harmony, which sponsors singing camps and workshops in New England and many parts of the world. (see [www.villageharmony.org](http://www.villageharmony.org)) The singers are primarily young graduates of Village Harmony singing programs. Many of them have studied traditional singing styles first hand with native teachers in South Africa, Bulgaria, Corsica and Caucasus Georgia, and some are also accomplished singing leaders in their own right.

In the workshop Northern Harmony will teach a selection of South African songs and dances, contemporary American shape-note songs, and songs from Georgia and the Balkans. In their teaching they pay close attention to the distinctive authentic vocal timbres and body language associated with the various singing traditions. With several Northern Harmony singers helping to lead each vocal part, the teaching is particularly efficient and gratifying.

South Africa has a particularly powerful and appealing folk harmony singing tradition, with a rich, resonant vocal sound, and wonderfully syncopated rhythm. The singing is always accompanied by dancing, with the rhythm of the dance movements often in counterpoint to the song. Village Harmony has led nine study camps in South Africa and has collaborated extensively with South African singing leaders Matlakala Bopape in Polokwane and Bongani Magatyana in Capetown.

Georgia’s ancient three-part harmony singing tradition features a dark, sonorous vocal quality, and startling harmonies, unlike anything in European music. Village Harmony has been leading singing camps in Georgia since 2001 and has collaborated regularly with Ketevan Mindorashvili and Ensemble Zedashe, with Malkhaz Erkvanidze, with Islam Pilpani and Rihu Ensemble in Svaneti, and with American Georgian singing teacher Carl Linich.

Traditional Corsican singing, passed down through oral tradition, features two highly ornamented upper voices over a more sustained harmonic bass. The excitement for the listeners and singers both comes from the impassioned delivery, the surprising harmonic shifts which ripple from voice to voice, and the buzzing vocal timbre which creates an extremely powerful sound rich in overtones. Village Harmony has been leading singing camps in Corsica since 2006, where they have worked especially with Corsican singing leaders Jean Etienne Langianni and Jacky Michaeli.

Shape-note singing, one of Northern Harmony's trademarks, had its origins in the community singing schools of 18th century New England. It is simultaneously a sacred and a social singing tradition, featuring stark, open harmonies, rhythmic, contrapuntal "fuging" sections, and the marvelous sacred poetry of the 18th century English hymn writer Isaac Watts and his followers.

Northern Harmony also performs a wide variety of village music from the Balkan countries. This music features the characteristic bright, "hard-voiced" Balkan vocal timbre, with dissonant harmonies frequently based on drones, and irregular dance meters in 7, 9 and 11. Many of these songs are accompanied by clarinet, accordion, fiddle and drum.

For further information visit the Northern Harmony website: [www.villageharmony.org](http://www.villageharmony.org)