



The **ROSE**
ENSEMBLE

Reawakening the Ancient

Educator Study Guide

And Glory Shone Around

Early American Ballads, Hymns & Dances

Program Description

Return to America's folk roots! In this fun new program, The Rose Ensemble presents Appalachian folk songs, Southern shape-note singing, Shaker spiritual songs, and the styles of singing that gave birth to bluegrass. In addition to engaging participants in simple, call-and-response singing (including entertaining demonstrations on just how high and low the voice can go!), the Rose Ensemble musicians also bring a variety of instruments into the mix, including wooden flute, African-American gut strung gourd banjo, jaw harp, guitar, fiddle and mandolin, with percussion provided by tambourine and stomping feet! Filled with sounds both familiar and fresh, this program explores our country's history through its musical heritage and gets young people excited about feeling a beat – and singing!

Educational Benefits

Using the music of people living in 17th-20th-century America, this is an excellent opportunity to help young people understand more about the rich musical, cultural and political history of our nation.

About the Artists

The Rose Ensemble is an inventive vocal ensemble working to reach young listeners with the sounds of early music and the dramatic telling of ancient legends and folk stories that speak to today's world. Singing *a cappella* in a variety of familiar and exotic languages and playing an array of early string, wind and percussion instruments, The Rose Ensemble helps people of all ages to honor our diverse world through an exploration of history, tradition, cultures and faith. The Rose Ensemble makes use of its unique place in the Twin Cities arts scene to bring a new and personal perspective to the social and cultural issues still relevant for today's youth. Our workshops for young people encourage interaction and dialogue so that students may ask questions, offer their thoughts, and participate musically. In addition to engaging participants in dialogue covering geography, history, community and languages, Rose Ensemble musicians lead in singing and rhythmic exercises and allow students to see, hear and touch unusual and exotic musical instruments. All these activities help young people explore perspectives on community and historical periods of tremendous societal change, promoting the arts as a vehicle to address contemporary social issues.

Glossary of terms and suggested resources:

shape note singing: a musical notation that uses note heads in 4 distinct shapes to aid in sight-reading

<http://www.folkstreams.net/film,44>

A free, straming 60-minute documentary about shape-note singing

Sweet Is the Day: A Sacred Harp Family Portrait tells the story of the Woottens, one of the key singing families who have helped Sacred Harp music survive and flourish for more than 150 years.

Producer/Folklorist Erin Kellen and Director Jim Carnes intertwine scenes of family gatherings, singing conventions, and farm life in the Sand Mountain region of northeast Alabama with family recollections and more than a dozen songs from the revered shape-note tradition.

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/walker/harmony/files/harmony.html>

The Southern Harmony, online

banjo: a stringed instrument with, typically, four or five strings, which vibrate a membrane of plastic material or animal hide stretched over a circular frame. Primitive forms of the instrument were fashioned by enslaved Africans in Colonial America, adapted from several African instruments.

Bringing The Banjo From Africa To Appalachia

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=95607716>

Shakers: a religious sect flourishing for most of the 19th century. One of the most durable of American Utopian experiments, their movement originated with a small band of English emigrants who arrived in New York in 1774. Known derisively as the Shaking Quakers for their frenzied dances and trances during religious services, the Believers (as they called themselves) preached that the path to salvation lay in hard work, abstention from worldly pleasures, and constant prayer. They also practiced celibacy and a cooperative lifestyle, one in which all property was jointly owned.

Information about the history of Shaker music

<http://www.americanmusicpreservation.com/shakerhistory.htm>

Acadians: are descendants of Canada's original French-speaking population. Between 1755-1763 British colonial officers and New England legislators and militia deported more than 14,000 Acadians, fearing that their French heritage would make them disloyal. Approximately one-third perished. Many later re-settled in Louisiana, where they became known as Cajuns.