



Press Release

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**ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION
MAKERS OF THE SACRED HARP
PRESENTED BY DAVID WARREN STEEL**

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought continues another year of interesting and informative talks on Alabama history at the **Alabama Department of Archives and History** on **Thursday, May 21**. Join us at **noon** as David Warren Steel presents *Makers of the Sacred Harp*.

Sacred Harp singing, also known as fasola or shape-note singing, is one of the most distinctive traditions of religious folk music in Alabama. This group vocal style is sung from song books printed with accompanying symbols, called shape notes, and is taught in traditional venues called "singing schools." This month, David Warren Steel, author of the *Makers of the Sacred Harp*, will explore the roots of the Sacred Harp, its authors and composers, and the regional culture that produced the Sacred Harp in the nineteenth century.

Steel has sung and studied the Sacred Harp since 1972 and is currently professor of music at the University of Mississippi. A distinguished scholar of American folk hymnody, he attended Harvard College and the University of Michigan. Steel has edited the collected works of early American composers Stephen Jenks and Daniel Belknap and provided liner notes for several recordings of Sacred Harp music. The *Makers of the Sacred Harp*, his historical study of the Sacred Harp, was published by the University of Illinois Press in 2010. Steel has taught at Camp Fasola (a residential singing school in Alabama) and appeared in the documentary film *Awake My Soul*.

This ArchiTreats presentation made possible by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and a grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The public is invited to bring a sack lunch and enjoy a bit of Alabama history. Complimentary beverages are provided. **Admission is always FREE!** To view the full 2015 ArchiTreats schedule visit www.archives.alabama.gov.

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