

36th Annual Minnesota State Sacred Harp Singing Convention September 26-27, 2026



PRELIMINARY EVENTS:

Thursday, September 24

SINGING SCHOOL

(targeted to beginners)

Hamline Church

1514 Englewood in St Paul

(enter off Minnehaha)

Singing 5:30pm-6:15pm

Singing School 6:30pm-7:15pm

Singing 7:30pm-8:15pm

Friday, September 25

SINGING WORKSHOP

(targeted to somewhat
experienced singers)

David Wright, singer/composer

Olivet UCC Church

1850 Iglehart in St Paul

Singing School 6:00pm-8:00pm

MAIN EVENTS:

Saturday, September 26

CONVENTION DAY ONE

Olivet UCC Church

1850 Iglehart in St Paul

Registration 9:00am

Singing 9:30am to noon

and 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Dinner on the grounds:

noon to 1:00pm

Sunday, September 27

CONVENTION DAY TWO

The Landing

2187 Hwy 101 in Shakopee

(enter on west end)

Registration 9:00am

Singing 9:30am to noon

and 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Dinner on the grounds:

noon to 1:00pm

ALL ARE WELCOME

All skill levels welcome

Loaner books available

Come for an hour, no need to stay all
day unless you want to...

We will sing from the 2025 Revision of
The Sacred Harp

DETAILS including accessibility
information, housing with local
singers, Saturday afternoon string
jam, and other singings in Minnesota
are available at mnfasola.org
There's a shape-note singing at least
twice a week in the Twin Cities if you
want to try things out in advance... the
calendar is at mnfasola.org

CONTACT A CONVENTION CHAIR

with questions at matt@mnfasola.org
or text Matt Wells (612) 293-5572

From mnfasola.org: Sacred Harp (generically “shape-note singing”) is a uniquely American tradition that brings communities together to sing four-part hymns and anthems. It is a proudly inclusive and democratic part of our shared cultural heritage.

Participants are not concerned with re-creating or re-enacting historical events. Our tradition is a living, breathing, ongoing practice passed directly to us by generations of singers, many gone on before and many still living.

All events welcome beginners and newcomers, with no musical experience or religious affiliation required — in fact, the tradition was born from colonial “singing schools” whose purpose was to teach beginners to sing and our methods continue to reflect this goal. Though Sacred Harp is not affiliated with any denomination, it is a deeply spiritual experience for all involved, and functions as a religious observance for many singers.

Sacred Harp “singings” are not performances. There are no rehearsals and no separate seats for an audience. Every singing is a unique and self-sufficient event with a different group of assembled participants. The singers sit in a hollow square formation with one voice part on each side, all facing inwards so we can see and hear each other. However, visitors are always welcome to sit anywhere in the room and participate as listeners.