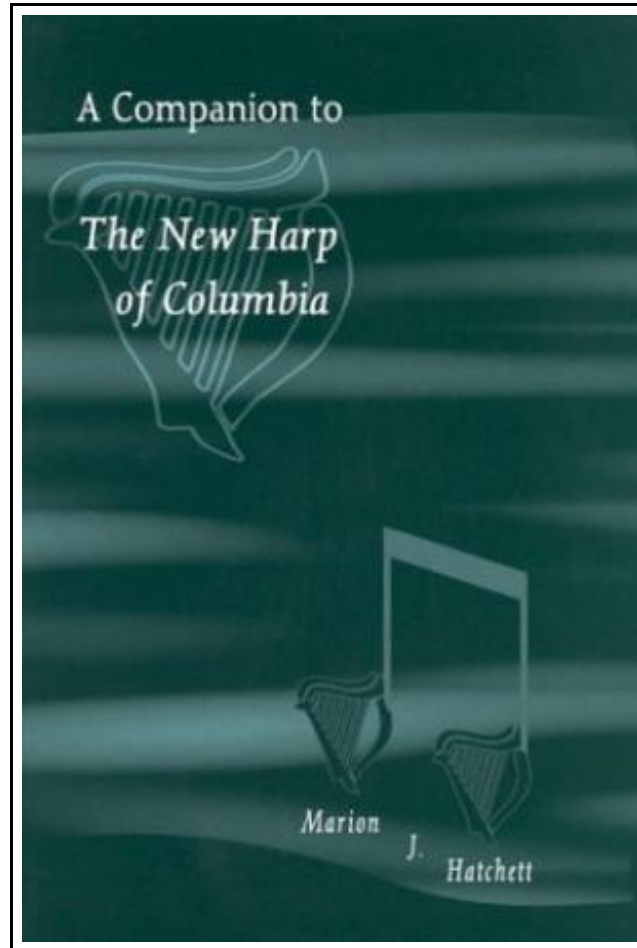


A Companion to the New Harp of Columbia (Hardback)



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A COMPANION TO THE NEW HARP OF COLUMBIA (HARDBACK)

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University of Tennessee Press, United States, 2003. Hardback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 239 x 159 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Meticulous in its research, encyclopedic in its detail, this reference volume is the first such work written for a shape-note songbook. Modeled on the various guidebooks to contemporary denominational hymnals, it provides commentary on every text, tune, author, and composer represented in M. L. Swan s New Harp of Columbia, a shape-note book originally published in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1867. The shape-note tradition first flourished in the small towns and rural areas of early America. Church-sponsored singing schools taught a form of musical notation in which the notes were assigned different shapes to indicate variations in pitch; this method worked well with congregants who had little knowledge of standard musical notation. Today many enthusiasts carry on the shape-note tradition, and The New Harp of Columbia (recently published in a restored edition by the University of Tennessee Press) is one of five shape-note singing manuals still in use. In the opening sections of this Companion, Marion J. Hatchett provides fascinating historical background about early American composers and folk-hymn compilers and the rise of the shape-note tradition. He then discusses earlier East Tennessee tunebooks before turning to The New Harp of Columbia and its 1848 predecessor, W. H. Swan and M. L. Swan s Harp of Columbia. In the commentaries that follow, Hatchett traces each text and tune to its origin and notes significant changes between the original publication and the subsequent New Harp. His discussions draw on the latest research and uncover earlier sources for a number of tunes and texts than have been previously cited. This work will be of great value for music scholars and folklorists as well as for the singers who keep the New Harp...

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