

“Farther Along”: Preliminary Program

Friday, April 4, 2008

- 1:00-1:30 Registration
- 1:30-2:00 Conference Welcome
Paul F. Wells, Director, Center for Popular Music, MTSU
- Conference Overview: Why We Are Here
Stephen Shearon, School of Music, MTSU
- 2:00-3:45 **Session 1 Publishing**
- The R.E. Winsett Music Company: A Case Study in Ma and Pa Publishing
Mel R. Wilhoit, Bryan College
- The Church Hymnal*: A Legacy of the Convention Song
Donald LeRoy, Lee University
Special Guest Respondent: Charles Towler, Gospel Heritage Music
- Roundtable 1: Conversations with Publishers**
Moderator: Stephen Shearon, MTSU

- 3:45-4:00 **BREAK**
- 4:00-5:30 **Session 2 Tradition and Change**
- Varying Degrees of Similitude: Stylistic Homogeneity and Change in the Stamps-Baxter Songs of Luther Presley
Gregory Straughn, Abilene Christian University
- Skylite Recording Company: The Legacy of Stamps Theodore E. Fuller, Collierville, Tennessee
- The Gaitherization of Convention Singing
Douglas Harrison, Florida Gulf Coast University
- 6:00-7:00 **DINNER**
- 7:00-8:30 **Singing**
Free and Open to the Public

Saturday, April 5, 2008

- 9:00-10:00 **Session 3 Higher Ground: Singing on the Cumberland Plateau**
- “Music is a Science”: The Career and Legacy of Shaped-Note Music Teacher W. E. Ledbetter, Overton County, Tennessee
Steve Hoskins, Trevecca Nazarene University/MTSU
- “Who Will Sing One Song for Me”: Tracing Shape-Note Singing Traditions in Rural Tennessee
Holly Garrett Anthony, Tennessee Technological University
- 10:00-11:00 **Session 4 It All Begins with a Song: Studies of Gospel Classics**
- Aldine Kieffer, Southern Gospel, and Hillbilly Music: The Case of “The Grave on The Green Hillside”
Stephen Shearon, MTSU
- From Hartford to Honky-Tonks to the ‘Hood: The Continuing Cultural Journey of Albert E. Brumley’s “I’ll Fly Away”
Kevin Kehrberg, University of Kentucky
- 11:00-11:15 **BREAK**
- 11:15-12:15 **Session 5 Why We Sing: Benefits and Values of Convention Singing**
- The Reasons We Sing: The Reported Health Benefits of Regular and Active Participation in Southern Gospel Convention Singing
Susan E. Abbott, Stephen F. Austin State University
- The Family of God: The Transmission of “Family Values” through the Gendered Conventions of Southern Gospel Singing Conventions
Suzanne R. Lee, Saint Louis University

- 12:15-1:15 **LUNCH**
- 1:15-2:30 **Session 6 Gospel Piano: Supporting the Singing**
- The Art of Convention-Style Piano Accompaniment
Tracey Phillips, MTSU
- Roundtable 2: Conversations with Gospel Pianists**
Moderator:
- 2:30-2:45 **BREAK**
- 2:45-3:45 **Session 7 Research Resources for the Study of Gospel Music**
- Digitizing on a Shoestring: The Max Morris Southern Gospel Music Collection
Jacquelyn A. Royal, Lee University
- Southern Gospel Holdings at the Center for Popular Music
Paul F. Wells and Grover Baker, MTSU
- 3:45-4:00 **BREAK**
- 4:00-5:00 **Session 8 Community and Family Traditions**
- Variations in Style and Repertory of Seven-Shape Conventions in Alabama
Steve Grauberger, Alabama State Council on the Arts
- The Speer Family: The “First Family” of Gospel Music
Shawn Degenhart, Peoria, IL
- 5:00-5:30 **Session 9 Roundtable 3: Conversations on the Future of Convention Singing**
Moderator: Robert Bradley, Greeneville, Tennessee