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## A Companion to the New Harp of Columbia (Hardback)

By Marion J Hatchett

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...



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### Reviews

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