

The Norumbega Harmony

Historic and Contemporary Hymn Tunes and Anthems from the New England Singing School Tradition

The Norumbega Harmony presents shape note editions of one hundred six choral works from the Golden Age of the New England Singing School (1770-1820) and thirty new compositions from today's Singing School revival. The historic scores have been constructed directly from first editions and use the texts originally set by the composers. Most of these tunes have not been published since the early 19th century and are not available in other tune books currently in print. Virtually all of the contemporary tunes, written by members and friends of Norumbega Harmony, appear here for the first time.

This collection is an expression of Norumbega Harmony's experience as one of New England's principal Singing School revival groups. It has been a fifteen-year project involving all of our members. Every aspect of the tune book has been produced by Norumbegans, from collecting and researching the texts and tunes to producing and editing the shape note scores. Designed for traditional singers, church choirs and directors, and all those interested in early American music and religion, *The Norumbega Harmony* is organized by region and chronology. The collection also includes an historical introduction to the New England Singing School tradition, instructions for reading shape notation, notes on performance practice, commentaries on each text and tune, and indices of scripture, theological themes, meters, authors, composers, first lines, and tune titles.

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