

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“We’ll all Sing Hallelujah: Sacred Sounds of Alabama”

Birmingham, Ala. On Saturday, March 15, 2014 in Columbiana, the Alabama Folklife Association will debut their most recent exhibit, Sacred Sounds of Alabama that will include a singing square with video recordings on display and a listening station to feature the gospel quartet tradition of Jefferson County. With support from the Alabama Humanities Foundation and local organizations, the afternoon will be filled with educational and engaging activities that focus on shape-note singing traditions. The exhibit opening takes place at 1:00 pm at the Shelby County Arts Council, accompanied by a reading from author and singer Buell Cobb on his new memoir, *Like Cords Around My Heart*. A lecture from Dr. Warren Steel, an author and scholar of southern culture, specializing in Sacred Harp heritage will further introduce the program to everyone attending.

Afterwards, author and singer Buell Cobb and David Ivey, a National Endowment for the Arts, National Heritage Fellow 2013 will be joined by fellow singers and leaders, Judy Caudle and Bridgett Hill Kennedy, as panelists contributing to a public discussion led by scholar and singer Jesse Pearlman Karlsberg.

Guests will then enjoy attending a Sacred Harp singing from 4:00 -7:00 pm in the second floor of the Old Shelby County Courthouse building, now home to the Shelby County Museum and Archives. To end the day there will be a southern dinner at Bernie’s on Main Street. All of the facilities are in close proximity and walking distance.

The Alabama Folklife Association (AFA) is a partner program of the Alabama State Council on the Arts and has worked on the documentation, preservation, and promotion of Sacred Harp singing through fieldwork, publications, and events including two Sacred Harp singings held in Montgomery every year. In addition, the AFA has produced many CDs using recordings from fieldwork that will be permanently housed at the Alabama Department of Archives and History as a result of our collaboration to create the Archive of Alabama Folk Culture.

For more information and to register for the event go to: <http://www.gospel4al.com>
SPACE IS LIMITED- Register at Eventbrite <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/well-all-sing-hallelujah-sacred-sounds-of-alabama-registration-10016257897>

The exhibit Sacred Sounds of Alabama is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and funds from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Alabama “Support the Arts” Car Tag License Program, and AFA membership.

www.alabamafolklife.org