



**THE CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC, MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY,  
MURFREESBORO, TN**

**GEORGE B. HOLSINGER SHAPE NOTE GOSPEL MUSIC COLLECTION      89-045**

**Creator:**

George B. Holsinger (1857-1908)

**Type of Material:**

Manuscript Textual Materials

**Physical Description:**

0.5 linear feet of manuscript materials in one box

**Languages:**

English

**Dates:**

Ca. 1880-1900

**Repository:**

Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132,  
(615) 898-2449.

**Access/Restrictions:**

The collection is open for research use. All materials in this collection are subject to standard national and international copyright laws. Center staff are able to assist with copyright questions for this material.

**Preferred Citation:**

(Box Number, Folder Number/Name), George B. Holsinger Shape Note Gospel Music Collection 89-045, Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

**Provenance and Acquisition Information:**

Purchased from Bookworm and Silverfish, Wytheville Virginia, as part of a larger collection of gospel tunebooks.

**Subject/Index Terms:**

Shape note  
Hymnals  
Gospel songbooks  
Music book editors

**Agency History/Biographical Sketch:**

George B. Holsinger was born in Bedford County, PA in 1857, attended the Shenandoah Valley Normal School and was director of music at Bridgewater College, 1882-1898. He was associate instructor, with B.C. Unseld, in music normals at Bridgewater College, 1894-96 and taught a number of singing schools elsewhere. He was music editor for the Church of the Brethren from 1898 to 1908 and associate editor of the Church of the Brethren hymnal which was published in 1901. His songs were used in over 100 publications, and "Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs" of which he was associate editor, reached the sale of over 200,000.

From—A Brief History of the Musical Movement...which was started in the Mountain Valley.

**Scope and Content:**

Manuscript shape note hymnals; proof sheets of the Brethren hymnal; multiple copies of Vocal Selections, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh series, published by John Church Co., copies of other shape note gospel song books including Straub's Vocal Selections, All Hail the Mighty Savior by S.A. Myers, The Voice of Praise by A.J. Showalter et. Al. and Sweet Fields of Eden by Tenny et. Al.; copies of oratorio choruses and chorales, some in multiple copies; Showalter's Vocal Studies and Exercises in Musical Notation; a program for the 1894 Bridgewater Summer Music School; 3 issues of music magazines; and several advertisements for music publications. The materials are arranged in the order listed, with individual pieces of music filed alphabetically by title.

**Collection Contents (Folder/Box List):**

Box # Folder # Description

**Box 1**

Folder 1	Manuscript hymnals
Folder 2	Manuscript hymnals notebook
Folder 3	Brethren hymnal proof sheets
Folder 4	Vocal selections, fourth series Bless the Lord Blessed Are They Father, O, Hear Us Great Source of Light
Folder 5	Vocal selections, fifth-seventh series Return of Spring The Foresters The Gospel Banner
Folder 6	Song books
Folder 7	Sheet music, A-S

Folder 8 Sheet music, T-Z  
Folder 9 Loose sheets/pages  
Folder 10 Showalter/Magazines/Program/Advertisements

**Arrangement:**

Original arrangement is unknown. It appears the original processing archivist organized the collection by type and themes that appeared naturally in the collection.

**Materials Cataloged Separately:**

It is unknown if any items from this collection were cataloged separately.

**Location:**

These materials are located in the manuscripts section of the archival stacks, filed chronologically by accession number.

**Related Materials:**

The Center for Popular Music holds various other materials relating to shape note singing. Other video, photographs, posters, periodicals and rare books that can be found by searching the archival database.

E. Garrison 1989.

Updated by Olivia M. Beaudry, CA, January 2024