Make a Joyful Noise: American Folk Hymns and the Second Great Enlightenment

(Wade Kotter, Library)

How is sacred music impacted by historical, social, political and economic factors in addition to religious beliefs? Where do American folk hymns fit into this picture? Learn what a hymn is and the relationship between a hymn text and a hymn tune. Explore the origins of the American Folk Hymn in the context of the Second Great Enlightenment and the relationship of this genre to secular folk music in early America. Learn to sing the same way people learned to sing in late 18th and early 19th century America using music written in shape notes. Examine primary sources from this period including tune books and words-only hymn books. Explore the resurgence of the folk hymn in 20th and 21st-century Christian congregational singing in America and beyond.

12:00 to 1:15 PM • TTH
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