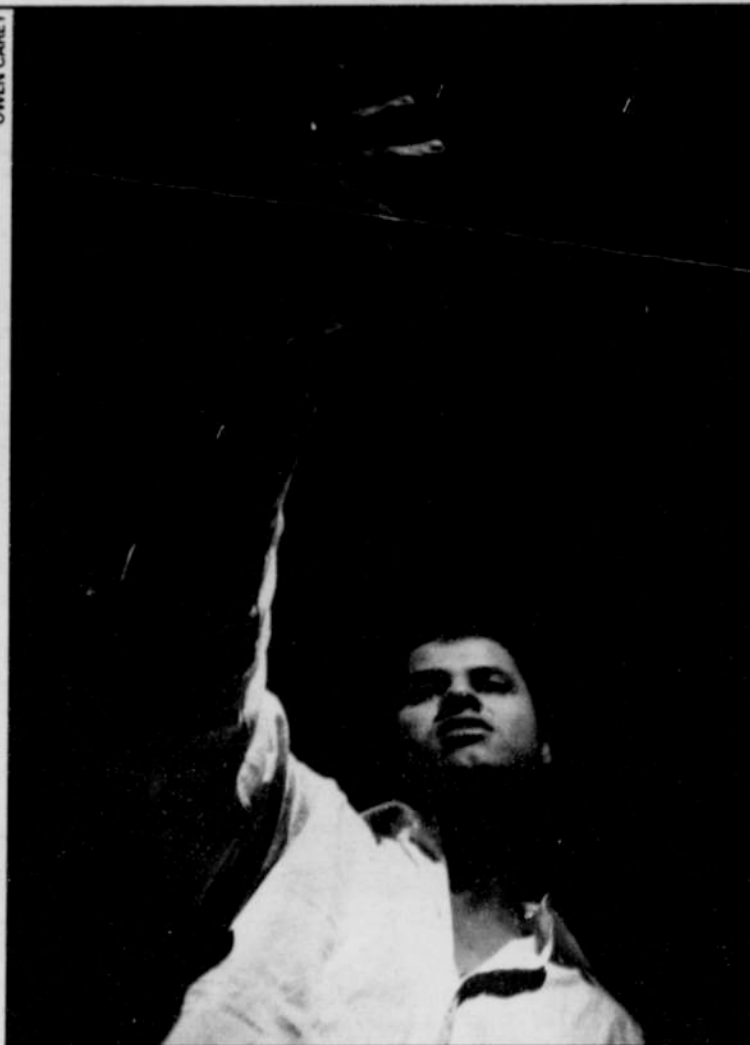




Oregon Children's Theatre stages Judy Blume's classic *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* Oct. 21-Nov. 3.



A black, gay, self-educated and poor man fools an upper-crust Manhattan family that he's the son of Sidney Poitier in Profile Theatre's *Six Degrees of Separation* through Nov. 11.

WED • OCT. 31

Elder Resource Alliance presents the discussion forum "Resources for Seniors and Aging Demographics" at Friendly House. (2-4 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave.)

The Egyptian Club presents a special Halloween Shotzee Karaoke with Rayleen and Tamra. Come to Texas Hold 'Em in costume and get an extra chip! (9 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)

THU • NOV. 1

Siren Nation: A Celebration of Women, Art & Community runs through Nov. 4 at various venues. See Page 22 for details. (For a complete schedule visit www.sirennation.com.)

Authors, poets and songwriters (including former *Just Out* columnist Marc Acito) tell **True Stories** at Mississippi Studios. (7:30 pm. 3939 N Mississippi Ave. \$10 from 503-288-3895.)

FRI • NOV. 2

Out Dancing's **intermediate foxy** class starts tonight and continues every Friday in November at Ankeny Street Studio. **Beginning tango** class follows. (6:15-7:15 pm foxy [\$40 for month], 7:15-8:15 pm tango [\$30 for month]. Southeast Ninth Avenue and Ankeny Street. 503-236-5129. www.outdancing.info.)

Q-LAND presents an informational session on **Celebrating the Body Erotic**. Body Electric's interactive workshop designed to

connect men to their deepest centers of pleasure and help them discover how to give and receive more fully using breath, touch and movement. (7-9 pm. RSVP to wayne bund@yahoo.com.)

Melao de Caña performs at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (9 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave.)

DJ Girlfriends presents **Pink**, a monthly queer dance party at Dunes offering an eclectic array of music from disco to hip-hop and everything in between. Pink drink specials all night long! (10 pm. 1905 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. \$3.)

SAT • NOV. 3

Wymprov and many others perform during the second annual **Oregon Women's Comedy Festival** at Lane Community College's Center for Meeting and Learning in Eugene. (2-5 pm workshops, 6-10 pm performances. 4000 E 30th Ave.)

Q-LAND honors our ancestors during a **Men's Heart Circle** featuring food, storytelling, singing and altar building. (6-10:30 pm. RSVP to 503-223-8822, ext. 1, or www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

Portland Art Center hosts **Wordigo 2** featuring authors Tom Spanbauer (*Now Is the Hour*) and Monica Drake (*Clown Girl*), interactive literary intrigue, desserts and wine. Proceeds benefit Write Around Portland. (7:30-10 pm. 32 NW Fifth Ave. \$35 at the door, \$25 in advance from 503-796-9224.)

Jimme Jamma, resident beat Svengali of Sissyboy, brings you **Money Shot**, Portland's dirtiest new electro night, every first Saturday at the Eagle PDX. (9 pm. 1300 W Burnside St.)

Folk musician **Nicole Sangsoree** performs with the inspirational and hilarious **Amy Steinberg** at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (9 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave.)

The Egyptian Club throws a 12th anniversary party. Play for an extra hour when the clocks are turned back! (9 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)

SUN • NOV. 4

March Fourth Marching Band performs at Crystal Ballroom. Proceeds benefit Voices for Silent Disasters, a grassroots effort to support Mercy Corps' humanitarian work in Uganda. (2 pm all-ages, 8 pm 21-and-older. 1332 W Burnside St. \$12 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Get lucky during the Fox & Hounds' **Monthly Charity Bingo**. (3:30 pm. 217 SW Second Ave.)

Celebrate Day of the Dead during **A Ritual of Remembrance Ancestor Feast and Spiral Dance** for all genders. Bring photos and mementos for the altar and the favorite dish of someone you love who has passed over. Proceeds benefit a five-day event to be staged in 2008 to explore queer activist, artistic and healing magic in Portland. (5:30 pm potluck, 7 pm ritual. 5040 SE Milwaukie Ave. \$7-\$15 sliding scale. info@queermagic.org.)

Singing a Tradition

By today's pop culture terms, what is an "old" song? Is it one that was released one year ago, or several years ago? Certainly, a song that came out 20 or 30 years previous is considered ancient history.

Some types of music, on the other hand, maintain their relevance for centuries.

Sacred Harp singing is one such traditional form. The genre takes its name from an 1844 hymnbook called *The Sacred Harp*. This style of music is also known as shapenote singing, because of the four distinct note shapes used in the form's musical notation.

Although Sacred Harp singing communities are more numerous in states such as Alabama, Texas and New York, the West Coast more than holds its own. California boasts nearly a dozen groups, and Washington has a handful.

Our local group is particularly vibrant. Whereas many Sacred Harp groups gather monthly or bimonthly, **Portland Sacred Harp** (www.portlandsacredharp.org; 503-504-0759) holds five singings a month.

Arcana Ferschke, whose former partner introduced him to Sacred Harp music about six years ago, estimates that a well-attended Portland singing attracts about 40 people from diverse backgrounds.

The group's diversity is part of the appeal for 32-year-old Ferschke, who is gay. He feels that there are not many places where people of different ages, political inclinations, classes and sexualities can come together.

Sacred Harp groups are different from other choruses because there are no rehearsals or public performances. Instead, every singing is an experience in itself, a chance for both beginning and seasoned participants to sing "to and for each other," as Ferschke puts it.

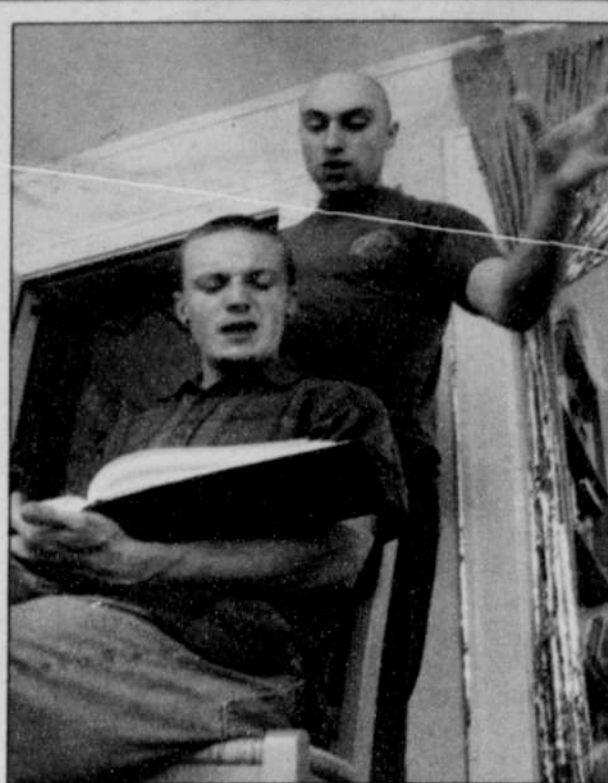
Most Sacred Harp singers will tell you that the only way to understand this type of music, which is often described as "raw" and "exuberant," is to see and hear it for yourself.

Portland Sacred Harp's 16th annual **Shapenote Singing Convention** is a good time to do just that. It's two full days of singing and socializing from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 20 and 21 at Mississippi Ballroom, 833 N. Shaver St. The convention kicks off with a singing school.

The event is expected to draw visitors from all over the country, adding up to a volume of voices that must be heard to be believed.

"Because the singing grows so much, and you have enough people to fill up a big room with their voices...it becomes an entirely new creature," says Ferschke, who has attended several conventions. "The rough edges get sanded down, and the power of music comes out, exponentially."

—Rebecca Ragain



Arcana Ferschke (standing) says Sacred Harp singing attracts people of different ages, political inclinations, classes and sexualities.

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