

# Marquand Reader

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## ***A Cappella, Sacred Harp, and More!***

*A cappella*—Italian for, literally, “in chapel style”—refers to music made with the human body, i.e. without any instrumental accompaniment. *A cappella* music has a rich history in Christian worship, dating back to and beyond the chanting of liturgy and scripture in Christian monasteries. Some Christian denominations today retain—as do many modern monasteries—the practice of worshipping using only *a cappella* music. Types of *a cappella* varies widely, running the gamut (literally—“running the gamut” means ascending or descending through an octave) from traditional choral music using only voices, to contemporary *a cappella* which includes vocal percussion—think beatboxing, but better—and in which any part of the human body (handclaps, foot stomps, tongue clicks) is fair game.

Both of our two remaining chapel services, Monday and Tuesday, feature *a cappella* music of different sorts, including modern choral music, contemporary *a cappella* gospel, and sacred harp music. David Warren Steel of the University of Mississippi’s music department defines sacred harp music as follows:

Sacred Harp singing is a non-denominational community musical event emphasizing participation, not performance. Singers sit facing inward in a hollow square. Each individual is invited to take a turn “leading,” i.e. standing in the center, selecting a song, and beating time with the hand. The singing is not accompanied by harps or any other instrument. The group sings from *The Sacred Harp*, an oblong songbook first published in 1844 by B.F. White and E. J. King. The music is printed in “patent notes,” wherein the shape of the note head indicates the syllables fa ▲, sol ○, la □, and mi ◆. The repertory includes psalm tunes, fusing tunes, odes and anthems by the first American composers (1770-1810), and also settings of folk songs and revival hymns (1810-1860).

Please join us for our final two services, as we do it *a cappella!*

## **Dialogical Preaching in Marquand**

This week, we have two opportunities to experience a sermon form that is fairly rare in Marquand: the dialogical sermon. A dialogical sermon is a sermon delivered by two or more partners, with the differing voices in concert creating a theological whole. You may remember, from Marquand’s past, dialogical sermons from Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala, co-pastors of First Presbyterian Church, and from our own Siobhán Garrigan and Martha Moore-Keish. This distinct style of homily provides for a mutuality among its participants; as opposed to one preacher imparting her or his wisdom to a congregation, two or more preachers work—and sometimes struggle—together to bring about a theological and homiletical product equally formed by each. This week, Jennifer Creswell and Ian Doescher will preach a dialogical sermon on Monday, and Friday’s special service honoring William Sloane Coffin will feature three separate preachers. The Coffin celebration brings three unique constituents of our community

together: our regular worshipping community, the YDS Board of Trustees, and those people who are coming to town specifically for the Coffin event. As such, Friday's dialogical sermon will be a combination of these three voices, each of which brings a distinctive perspective to William Sloane Coffin's legacy. Please join us at these services to experience this unique style of sermon delivery!

**A Look Ahead: This Week's Services**

*Please join this week for the following services at 10:30 a.m.:*

Monday, April 25: graduating students Jennifer Creswell and Ian Doescher will preach, in a service featuring the debut and final performance of the Chapel Team Sextet.

Tuesday, April 26: Siobhán Garrigan and Patrick Evans will lead the final chapel service of the academic year, with special music from Cece Jones and the Bible Belters. ***Please plan on this service being 45 minutes long!***

Friday, April 30: a special service in honor of William Sloane Coffin, part of the events on campus honoring Dr. Coffin this week.

**Reminder: the last day of chapel coincides with the last day of classes: Tuesday, April 26**

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The *Marquand Reader* is written by Siobhán Garrigan and Ian Doescher.