

## House Resolution 221

By: Representative Huddleston of the 72<sup>nd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Sacred Harp Publishing Company, *The Sacred Harp*  
2 tunebook, and Sacred Harp singers; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Sacred Harp singing, a moving tradition of capella shape-note harmony singing,  
4 has been practiced in Georgia for more than 175 years; and

5 WHEREAS, the first edition of *The Sacred Harp*, the tunebook at the tradition's core, was  
6 edited by B. F. White, of Hamilton, Georgia, and E. J. King, of Talbotton, Georgia, before  
7 its publication in 1844 and has been in continuous use in the state ever since; and

8 WHEREAS, annual Sacred Harp singing conventions, many dating to the nineteenth century,  
9 are still held each year in many corners of the state, forming the wellspring of a tradition that  
10 has since spread across the country and abroad; and

11 WHEREAS, composers, songbook editors, and singing school teachers from Georgia such  
12 as J. P. and H. S. Rees, Sarah Lancaster, A. M. Cagle, Hugh W. McGraw, and Raymond C.  
13 Hamrick have composed beloved sacred songs over generations, perpetuating an  
14 uninterrupted tradition of music composition in the tunebook's distinctive "dispersed  
15 harmony" style; and

16 WHEREAS, the Sacred Harp Publishing Company, a non-profit organization established in  
17 1933 and headquartered in Carrollton, Georgia, has supported this tradition through keeping  
18 the songbook in print and collecting and preserving the tradition's cultural heritage; and

19 WHEREAS, *The Sacred Harp: 2025 Edition*, the first new revision of the tunebook since  
20 1991, will be published in September 2025, sustaining and strengthening the Sacred Harp  
21 singing tradition by introducing new songs by living composers alongside much-loved  
22 classics; and

23 WHEREAS, the new edition of this venerable songbook will be introduced to the singing  
24 public at the 120th annual session of the United Sacred Harp Musical Association, an annual  
25 Sacred Harp singing convention founded in Atlanta in 1905 at the Historic DeKalb  
26 Courthouse in Decatur, the same site of the Sacred Harp performances more than a century  
27 ago.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
29 the members of this body commend the Sacred Harp Publishing Company, the committee  
30 tasked with revising *The Sacred Harp*, and the global community of Sacred Harp singers for  
31 their participation in and furtherance of this extraordinary tradition representing Georgia's  
32 and America's cultural heritage and for ushering it into its next storied chapter.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
34 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
35 public and the press.