

NEW HARMONY STORIES
“New Harmony: A Tale of Two Utopias” on November 5th
& PBS’s “Heaven on Earth” on November 11th to both tell New Harmony’s History

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November 1, 2005, New Harmony, Indiana -- New Harmony’s rich utopian history will be recounted in two unique ways during November.

USI’s Historic New Harmony will present “*New Harmony: A Tale of Two Utopias*” at Thrall’s Opera House in New Harmony on Saturday, November 5, 2005, at 2:00 p.m. Voces Novae, a noted chamber choir from Bloomington, Indiana, will present the area premiere of this choral work, which explores the two early 19th century utopian communities of New Harmony with dramatic narrative and music.

“For lovers of traditional American music of the 19th and early 20th centuries, including traditional Shaker hymns, this is a must-see presentation,” noted Jan Kahle, Education Coordinator for Historic New Harmony. Many of the songs used in the production were originally performed in New Harmony by the Harmonist or followers of Robert Owen.

Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for seniors and children and will be available at Thrall’s Opera House the day of the event. For information or advance ticket purchases, patrons can call the Atheneum/Visitors Center 800.231.2168.

PBS's "*Heaven On Earth*" tells the story of the rise and fall of socialism during the 19th and 20th centuries. The series will air on PBS stations throughout the country this fall and will be featured on Evansville's WNIN on Fridays in November. The series begins on Friday, November 11th, quite literally by telling the story of Robert Owen, the leader of New Harmony's second utopian experiment.

USI Professor **Donald Pitzer**, who was also the editor of "America's Communal Utopias" and **Connie Weinzapfel**, Historic New Harmony Director, are prominently featured in the documentary's first episode. They both discuss how Owen's ideas about education, culture, and equality found an outlet on the banks of the Wabash River 180 years ago and how these ideas had a lasting impact on the development of the United States.