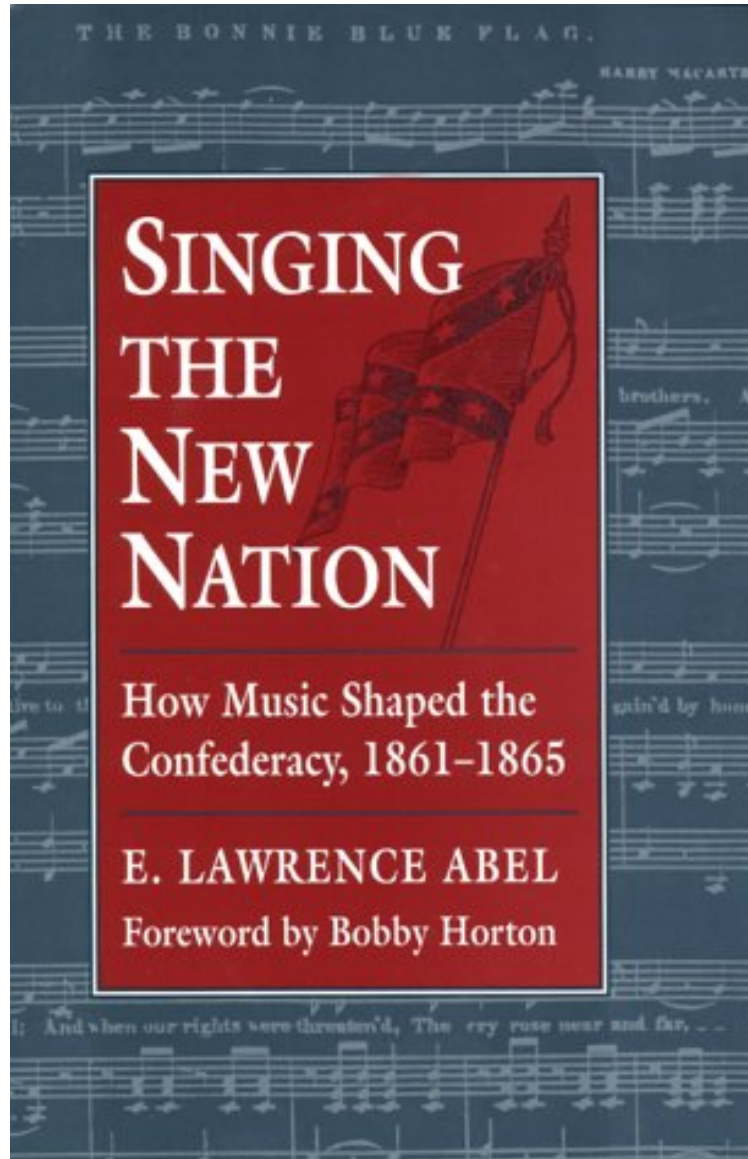


(Ebook free) Singing the New Nation

## Singing the New Nation

*E. Lawrence Abel*

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**E. Lawrence Abel : Singing the New Nation** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Singing the New Nation:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Answered many questions By Fred Muse A composer, I have been arranging a group of the popular songs of Lincoln's day for violin and piano, and was interested in learning more about the songs, the men who wrote them, and the reasons for their popularity. This book is supposed to tell how music

shaped the Confederacy, but I found it a wonderful source of information about the songs of the Civil War, whether they were songs I considered to be mainly Confederate songs or whether I thought of them as primarily Union songs. The Appendix is very well put together, the Bibliography is extensive, the notes are meticulous, and the index seems to cover everything. It is a pity that an information source as fine as this should have been allowed to go out of print. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Singing the New Nation By A Customer This is a study of music and songwriting in the Confederacy. Abel sees nationalism as consciously spearheaded from above, a "goal" aimed at by the higher classes and imposed upon the hoi polloi (sic). Though some of the more propagandistic songs may certainly reflect such a deliberate effort, it's noteworthy that this view of Confederate nationalism contradicts the analyses of scholars such as McPherson and Gallagher. Abel's discussion of field calls is useful, and he's certainly picked an under-discussed topic. Though I didn't find his analysis entirely convincing, the history of individual songs (I was glad to know I'm not the only person who thinks the words of "Dixie" are lame) was interesting. I'd have liked to see a bit more on ballads and traditional music which would have been known to soldiers of the period, but then that's not the focus of the book. Probably a "get from the library" rather than a "buy" book for most readers. 13 of 15 people found the following review helpful. singing the new nation By E. Lawrence Abel I wrote this book to show how Confederate music during the war reveals the social history of the South during the war. The book is not a bibliography of sheet music nor simply a collection of lyrics. Instead, it uses the lyrics and covers from various pieces of sheet music to illustrate what Southerners believed they were fighting for and the feelings they had about their families, homes and their fate. These songs bound Southerners from different classes and different regions together, thereby creating a collective sense of nationalism. The songs also provided an outlet for people who were otherwise restrained in their emotions, to express their feelings in public. It also traces the history of some of the better known Southern songs such as "Dixie" and the "Bonnie Blue Flag" and describes the integral place of field music and brass bands in the war effort.

10 b/w illustrations, 6 x 9 Comprehensive list of sheet music published in the South during the war Covers all of the known bands of the Confederate army Confederate music extended far beyond "Dixie" and "The Yellow Rose of Texas" and in fact played a significant role throughout the Civil War. From the recruiting songs that celebrated early war efforts to the "lost cause" songs of the Confederacy's last days, this new study chronicles how soldiers and civilians coped with war through their music. Included are many never-before-told histories of patriotic anthems, sentimental songs, operas, and minstrel shows.

About the Author E. Lawrence Abel is a professor of psychology at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. He has published more than 30 articles in magazines such as *Americas Civil War*, *Yankee*, and *American History Illustrated* and 34 books on a wide variety of historical topics.