

# Chawton House Library Fellow's Lecture

## 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009

### Singing Home and Family: Women's Sheet Music Albums in Early Nineteenth-Century Britain

Professor Jeanice Brooks University of Southampton

The late eighteenth century saw an explosion in the production of sheet music for domestic consumption, and women of the period exchanged printed music, copied music for themselves and each other, and collected music into albums for performances at home. Jane Austen and the female members of her family were no exception, and sixteen of the Austen family music albums still exist; eight of these have recently arrived at Chawton House on loan for use in a major study of the entire collection. We still know very little of what women chose from the vast amount of music available, and how their use of music reflects currents of taste, levels of ability, educational and performance practices characteristic of their particular social contexts. This presentation compares the Austen volumes to those collected by Jane Austen's contemporaries, reflecting on the use of music by women in the period.



**Lecture Tickets:** £10 & £7.50 for friends/students

6.30pm Reception with wine

7.00pm Lecture



To book, or for more info, call 01420 541010 or email [info@chawton.net](mailto:info@chawton.net).

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