

A unique musician, historian and educator, Gerri Gribi has toured North America for over 20 years. She's performed in the venues you'd expect - theaters, coffeehouses, schools, convocations and folk festivals - and some you probably wouldn't like military bases and prisons. Accompanying her clear soprano voice with autoharp, mountain dulcimer and guitar, she brings history to life in *any* setting in a way which is lively, fun, and (gasp!) even educational.

She made her first television appearance at the age of 13, and at 15, sang as one of the youngest members of the renowned **Cincinnati May Festival Chorus**. But her first love has always been folk music, and her interest in using traditional songs as a way of teaching history began while she worked for the Education Department of the Cincinnati Historical Society in the 1970's.

Disturbed by the fact that all the traditional "women's" songs she knew portrayed women as victims, she set out to recover songs showing women in a more positive light. With resources ranging from the Library of Congress Archive of Folk Culture, to a porch in West Virginia, her research has unearthed songs which portray our foremothers more realistically as workers, creators, survivors and dreamers.

She is a frequent guest on TV and radio, and her music has been featured in a variety of media outlets, including **ABC Prime Time Live**. She has lent her creative hand to numerous projects, including writing and performing music for the award-winning documentary "Poverty Shock: Anywoman's Story." Her newest CD, "**The Womansong Collection**," has been widely and enthusiastically reviewed, both at home and abroad. She's been ranked among the **Top Ten Artists** by the National Women's Radio Play List.

She writes about topics in women's history and music, and has been published in academic journals such as Minerva and Feminist Collections, plus popular periodicals and newspapers. She maintains an annotated and frequently updated website of women's and folk music resources at <<http://creativefolk.com>>.

In her spare time, she enjoys singing as a member of the African American Gospel Choir of Green Bay.

DISCOGRAPHY: Available online at CreativeFolk.com and Amazon.com

- The Womansong Collection (1996) Compact Disc  
Twenty-five woman-positive songs, with lyrics and historical notes.
- Home for Christmas (1996) Compact Disc
- Monsters in the Closet (1982) Best of Friends (1985) It's a Dog's Life (1988) Cassettes  
Traditional, contemporary and original songs for kids (and people who never grew up!)

*"It was a pleasure to discover this grass-roots artist with a keen historical consciousness and a wonderfully appealing musical style."*  
*folknik - San Francisco Folk Music Club*

*"Gerri Gribi sings in a clear, concise voice that echoes the purity of the early Joan Baez. A thoroughly entertaining performer."* *Madison Capital Times*

*"She weaves her lyrical magic with even the most skeptical audiences. Before they realize it, they have crossed the threshold from listeners to participants."*

*The Milwaukee Journal*

## EDUCATION

- **Lesley University**, Cambridge MA 2000-02  
M.A. Summa Cum Laude,  
African American Studies
- **Thomas More College**, Ft. Mitchell, KY 1972-76  
B.A. Magna Cum Laude, History  
Teaching Certification, Grades 7-12

## SELECTED RECOGNITIONS

- **Write Women Back Into History Award**  
National Women's History Project.
- **Certificate of Appreciation**  
Presented by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for her "entertaining, educational school programs about strong women."
- Featured in the book **Dreamers and Doers: Women of Northeastern Wisconsin**.  
A women's history project published by AAUW.