

# About Gerri Gribi

A unique musician, historian and storyteller, Gerri Gribi has toured North America for 25 years. Accompanying her clear soprano voice with autoharp, guitar and mountain dulcimer, she brings our foremothers to life in a way which is lively, fun, and (gasp!) even educational.

With degrees in history and education, she first used folk songs as teaching tools while working at the Cincinnati Historical Society in the 1970's. One day, while performing at a folk festival, she realized all the traditional "women's songs" she knew or heard others perform portrayed women negatively.

*It seemed they were always drowning themselves because they couldn't get married...or drowning themselves because they did!*

Believing we find strength in our cultural roots, she researched and recovered "lost" traditional songs which portray our foremothers more realistically as workers, creators, doers and dreamers.

She weaves the old songs - along with newer ones - into concerts and lectures which celebrate women's diverse heritage.

Her work has been recognized by the National Women's History Project and the American Association of University Women, and she has participated in several projects funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

*The Womansong Collection*, her latest CD, has been widely and enthusiastically reviewed both at home and abroad.

## Additional Programs

• *Women Have Always Worked*  
Highlights women's experiences in "non-traditional" jobs: sailors, soldiers and engineers come to life in songs and stories. But "traditional" roles are also explored: women as farmers, artists, mill workers, homesteaders and reformers.

• *Prince Charming Doesn't Live Here*  
This presentation highlights issues of self-esteem and self-reliance with songs and stories about women who chose their own paths, and succeeded despite the odds.

• *Classroom Conversation*  
Meet the artist up close and personal! Gerri speaks with candor and humor about the pitfalls and pleasures of being an independent scholar and musician.

• *Life in the Past Lane  
Preschool and up*  
What we did before Nintendo! A lively presentation of folk songs, stories and games encouraging kids to create their own fun. Introduces three acoustic folk instruments: mountain dulcimer, autoharp and guitar.

• *Foremothers -  
Grades Four and Up*  
Informative, fun, and yes... it's for boys, too!

# Booking Information

For more information, or to book a performance, contact:

**Gerri Gribi**  
(920) 437-7373  
gerri@creativefolk.com

For song lyrics, bibliographies, links and more, visit **CreativeFolk.com**

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*"People are still talking about how much they enjoyed your concert and visit.*

Thanks for your generosity of spirit and song!"

Dr. Mary Anne Sedney  
Director of Women's Studies  
Providence College, RI

*"Gerri wove her performance around our women's studies program's contributions to the event...made sure she connected with*

themes in the students' poetry, and gave information about women featured in our quiz.

And she did this with no notice whatsoever!"

Dr. Laura Duhan Kaplan  
Coordinator, Women's Studies Program  
University of North Carolina-Charlotte

*"There is absolutely no better way to end an exhausting conference than to hear you perform."*

Hannah Rosenthal - Director  
Wisconsin Women's Council

# A Musical Romp through Women's History!



**For:**  
Colleges  
Conferences  
Meetings  
Banquets  
Convocations  
Coffeehouses  
Performing Arts  
Series  
Humanities Series

## Written and performed by Gerri Gribi

*A Musical Romp Through Women's History* is an uplifting, spirited performance celebrating women's diverse heritage, from colonial times to the present. The full concert length is generally 75 minutes, though a shorter version (30-60 minutes) is available for keynotes and banquets. (Either way, it always includes a free yodeling lesson!)

Easily adapted to any setting, including theater, chapel, lunchroom, classroom or banquet hall.

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***In song and story, you'll "meet" a  
diverse cast of characters, including:***

- A young woman who disguises herself as a man to sneak into the navy.
- A pioneer couple who swap chores for the day, with hilarious consequences.
- A "crafty maid" who uses a bawdy double entendre to outwit an assailant...then steals his horse to boot!
- Black women fighting against slavery.
- Primitive Baptist women grieving the death - but celebrating the life - of a cherished friend.
- The suffragists who won the vote.
- Native American women who inspired the Women's Rights Movement.
- "Union maids" and reformers from cotton mills, factories and Appalachian coal mines.
- Women who defied stereotypes to become everything from "cowgirls" to engineers.

"Your talent, humor and joyful presence on stage, combined with your message, create a powerful and inspiring evening for your audience. Comments prove my point:

***-Wonderful! Fantastic!***

***-I appreciated her inclusion of minorities.***

***-Bring her back next year!"***

Margie Cook

Women's History Month Coordinator  
Northern Illinois University

***"Your performances were very well received by both men and women.*** Your humorous and educational style proves that these topics can be presented in a manner that doesn't alienate anyone."

Jose J. Soto, VP

Affirmative Action, Equity and Diversity  
Southeast Community College Area  
Lincoln, NE

"She combines important history with lots of fun to create a memorable experience... ***one of the best programs I've seen.***"

Barbara J. Tavares

State Equity Coordinator  
University of Hawaii  
Honolulu, HI