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Sample Release for a Feature Story

Anytown University

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UNIVERSITY PRESENTS AN EVENING OF WOMEN'S HISTORY AND MUSIC

On March 7, 2010, Gerri Gribi will perform "A Musical Romp Through Women's History" at 7:30 p.m. in Susan B. Anthony Auditorium, Studio Arts Building.

A unique musician, historian and storyteller, Gerri Gribi has toured North America for over 25 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 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.

She was disturbed by the fact that most traditional "women's" songs portrayed women as victims. Says Gribi, "In all the songs I knew or had heard, women were either killing themselves because they couldn't get married, or killing themselves because they did!" So 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.

And, she's quick to point out, "Just as our forefathers belong to women, these wonderful foremothers belong to men as well. They deserve to know more about them, and to celebrate their achievements."

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**. 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.

Gribi maintains a website of resources for anyone interested in folk music and women's music at Creativefolk.com. Her music is available at iTunes, Amazon and all major download sites.

The concert is sponsored by the Alice Paul Lecture and Performance Series, and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jane Doe, Community Relations, 555-1234.

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