

‘Die Marriyeschtanne’ to shine in Kutztown concert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 15, 2011

CONTACT: Bruce Jensen vcc@kutztown.edu (610) 683-4766

DIALECT MUSIC KICKS OFF SERIES OF PA GERMAN EVENTS (289 words)

Hipster threesome turns to field recordings, early 20th century folklorists in resurrecting songs to delight new listeners of all ages

Die Marriyeschtanne, a trio of young musicians spearheading the rediscovery of songs in the Pennsylvania German dialect, will perform Thursday, October 27 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Rohrbach Library of Kutztown University. Admission is free.

Samantha Miller (vocals, mandolin), Jeremy Parson (bass), and Amanda Richardson (vocals) are Die Marriyeschtanne, whose name means “The Morning Stars.”

“We’re a group dedicated to preserving, by performing, secular Pennsylvania German dialect music,” said Miller. Their extensive research makes use of hard-to-find field recordings as well as the work of early- to mid-20th century folklorists who collected songs and stories of the region.

Their careful attention to the cadences of the *Pennsylvanisch Deutsch* language aside, the trio does not mimic the sounds heard in the old recordings. Miller explains that their project seeks to cement new generations’ Pennsylvania German cultural identity by giving modern interpretations to the songs.

Nonetheless, grandmothers in the audience at a recent performance were moved to wistful nostalgia as they harmonized with Die Marriyeschtanne to the tune of a long-remembered lullaby.

The concert will also feature some of Miller’s original music and is sponsored by the library’s Voices and Choices Center, which highlights cultural diversity through its programs and displays. This event is the first of a series, conducted in conjunction with the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center, that this winter will feature a joint talk by Amish businessman James Reel with Old Order Mennonite counterpart James Weaver, as well as a public lecture by noted scholar of Anabaptist cultures Dr. Donald Kraybill.

Information about the Rohrbach Library’s Voices and Choices Center is at <http://www.kutztown.edu/library/events>

#####

Who: Die Marriyeschtanne (The Morning Stars)

What: Concert of Pennsylvania German dialect music

When: October 27 (Thursday), 7pm

Where: Kutztown University, Rohrbach Library, Room 100B

Why: A new generation of PA Germans reinvigorates songs of their ancestors

Contact: Prof. Bruce Jensen, 610-683-4766, vcc@kutztown.edu



Die Marriyeschtanne From left: Jeremy Parson, Amanda Richardson, and Samantha Miller