About klezmer music

In the 1968 book *The Joys of Yiddish*, author Leo Calvin Rosten compares klezmer music to jazz, saying it grew out of improvisation, ingenious harmonizing and solo innovations.

Klezmer music, usually performed on trumpets, bugles, flutes, clarinets, fifes, violins, cellos and drums, includes traditional Hebrew music, folk songs, dances and solemn hymns. In the 1800s, it was largely performed at weddings, festivals and Jewish holiday events by “klezmorim,” informal traveling troupes of three to six musicians; many of whom lacked the money for formal musical training. Klezmorim were frequently depicted in the paintings of Marc Chagall and Chaim Gross.

Dayton Christian-Jewish Dialogue

The Dayton Christian-Jewish Dialogue, founded in 1972, meets monthly — usually the second Sunday of each month except January and August — to learn more about Christian and Jewish traditions, histories and cultures and to develop bonds of friendship between its members. Meetings are open to the public, and new members are welcome. For information, see the organization's Web site, http://academic.udayton.edu/KenRosenzweig/dcjd/.

The Dayton Christian-Jewish Dialogue and the UD departments of Music, Languages and Religious Studies present

Internationally acclaimed clarinetist

Susanne Ortner

An engaging concert featuring a blend of jazz and traditional Jewish klezmer music

7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, 2007
Sears Recital Hall
Jesse Philips Humanities Building
University of Dayton
**About the artist**

“Playing and loving the music of a different culture, a different religion, is a great chance for showing the respect you have for the other and may say more than words could,” says Susanne Ortner, a German klezmer clarinetist and visiting scholar at the University of Pittsburgh. As a representative of a new generation of Germans, Ortner is especially committed to intercultural and interfaith dialogue in order to break down barriers and lay a foundation for genuine human contact and understanding through music. While in Pittsburgh, she is conducting klezmer workshops, leading programs with Holocaust survivors, and performing and teaching at the Holocaust Center in Pittsburgh.

Ortner, a musician and high school teacher, does solo performances and gives klezmer workshops that explain and provide exercises in the modes of Jewish instrumental music — cadences, harmonic structures, genres, articulation, phrasing, ornamentation, variation and improvisation.

Ortner is widely acclaimed in Germany, Israel and Switzerland for the authenticity, depth, beauty and warmth in her interpretation of exhilarating festive dance tunes as well as Chassidic Nigunim. She also is the leader of the klezmer band Sing Your Soul, whose repertoire also includes Argentine Tangos, Israeli melodies and the light and jazzy sounds of Yiddish theater.

**Musical program**

- Doina / Gasn Nign / Lebendikh un Freilekh (trad.)
- Sher / A Galitsianer Tentsl (trad.)
- Firn di Mekhutonim Aheim (trad.)
- Der Shtiler Bulgar (trad.)
- L’ Jerushalaim Shel Zahav (Naomi Shemer)
- Hora mit Tsibeles / Dem Tsadiks Zemerl / Bulgar (trad.)
- Shalom Aleichem (trad.)
- Bai mir Bistu Shein (Sholom Secunda)
- Ale Brider (trad.)

**Accompaniment**

Guitarist Steven Stuhlbarg, director of the Cincinnati Klezmer Project

**CDs available**

CDs of Susanne Ortner and Sing Your Soul are available for sale after the concert tonight.