



The Fabulous Shpielkes
**To Perform Award-Winning
Klezmer Music
On August 13 and 14, 2010
At the Bethlehem (Pa.) Musikfest**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JUNE 26, 2010



The Fabulous Shpielkes, an internationally-renown, award-winning Klezmer music group, will perform their unique and upbeat style of Jewish music at Musikfest, the Bethlehem (Pennsylvania) Music Festival, on Friday and Saturday, August 13 and 14, 2010.

Featuring the mother and daughter team of Elaine Hoffman Watts and Susan Watts, *The Fabulous Shpielkes* play to rave reviews at every performance. Klezmer music – essentially Jewish “folk music” from Eastern Europe, Klezmer – has been enjoying a revival since the 1970s, in large part because of the popularity of *The Fabulous Shpielkes*.

Elaine Hoffman Watts, who also teaches percussion, has received countless awards during her distinguished career, including the 2007 National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Fellowship Award. Her grandfather, Joseph Hoffman, played cornet in the Russian army, and her father, percussionist and xylophone player Jacob Hoffman, played in the Philadelphia Orchestra, and traveled with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops.

Susan Watts, who travels the world demonstrating her inimitable style of Klezmer trumpet, has performed at Carnegie Hall, and always leaves the crowd laughing and dancing in the aisles.

Craig Harwood, Dean of Yale University’s Davenport College, describes Elaine and Susan as “two of the finest musicians, performers, educators, and people [he knows]. They are keepers of an almost extinct musical tradition that they inherited from their family: klezmer. Perhaps “sharers” would be a more accurate word than “keepers,” since Susan and Elaine in no way want to keep their music to themselves; they enthusiastically share it with everyone they meet.”

The duo is scheduled to perform on Friday and Saturday, August 13 and 14, as part of Pennsylvania Lottery Volksplatz, which features World, Celtic, Rock and other types of music. The times of the their performances have not been announced. Musikfest takes place in the middle of downtown Bethlehem, and admission is free for the performance by *The Fabulous Shpielkes*. For more information, contact Musikfest at www.musikfest.org.

For more information about *The Fabulous Shpielkes*, visit www.phillyklezmer.com, send an email to musikfest@phillyklezmer.com or call (610) 389-6036.