

KlezmerQuerque 2013

Elaine Hoffman-Watts: Drums & Susan Watts: trumpet & voice



Elaine Hoffman Watts and Susan Watts are descendants of Philadelphia's prominent Hoffman family musical dynasty. Beginning with Susan's great-grandfather, musician, composer, cornet-player, and poet, Joseph Hoffman, this important klezmer dynasty reaches back to the Jewish Ukraine of the 19th century. Third and fourth generation klezmerim (musicians) Elaine and Susan are internationally celebrated for their musical skill, ingenuity and cultural knowledge.

Elaine is a musical national treasure. Born in 1932, Elaine Hoffman Watts is a winner of the prestigious 2007 National Heritage Award from the National Endowment of the Arts. She is one of only eight artists from Pennsylvania, and one of only six

Jewish artists from the entire country, to be so honored over the last 28 years. Elaine is also the recipient of the Leeway Transformation Award and a Pew Fellowship in the Arts. She was the first woman percussionist to be accepted at Curtis Institute, from which she graduated in 1954. Hoffman-Watts has performed and taught drums, timpani, and mallet instruments for more than forty years, working in symphonies, theaters, and schools.

In addition to performing with a variety of noted Klezmer musicians from around the world, trumpeter & vocalist Susan Watts has shared the stage with Mandy Patinkin at Carnegie Hall, Dudu Fischer, Theodore Bikel, Claire Barry, Boban Markovic, So-Called, Alicia Svigals, Margot Leverett, Henkus Netsky, The Klezmer Conservatory Band, among others. Susan is a member of The Fabulous Shpielkes, Frank London's Klezmer Brass All-Stars, Mikveh, and The Klez Dispensers. Recently, she scored and recorded the soundtrack for the award winning film 'Breath', and she recorded the soundtrack for a documentary on Philadelphia klezmer 'A Joyful Noise.' Susan teaches at klezmer festivals, is an ambassador for womens'



rights around the world and loves good coffee, fine vodka, singing and playing her trumpet