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Family Concert of Sephardic Music Recounts
Rich History of Spanish Jews

Flory Jagoda, who will give a free, public concert of Sephardic Music at the State University of New York at Binghamton on April 6, recounts the rich history of Spanish Jews.

In her solo and family concerts, Jagoda continues her family's tradition of preserving Sephardic music by passing it on to her children and to her listeners. The lyrics, set to the rhythms of Balkan and Mediterranean folk music, describe the history of the Spanish Jews from the 1400s, before the Spanish Inquisition, through the Second World War.

A native of Yugoslavia, Jagoda has opened this door of Sephardic Judaism for audiences in the U.S., Canada, Israel and recently, through Yugoslavia.

Jagoda's concert, with her son and daughters, will begin at 7:30 p.m. on April 6 in Casadesus Recital Hall, Fine Arts Building, on the SUNY-Binghamton campus. Her appearance is part of a three-day Sephardic Studies Conference which is expected to draw 60 scholars to Binghamton from France, Spain, Latin America and Israel, as well as from many American universities. Visitors will be housed in private homes. (Anyone who would like to host a Spanish, French or Italian-speaking guest for one or two nights is asked to call 777-3070.)

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Flory has a large repertoire of haunting Sephardic liturgical and folk songs, which she intersperses with stories of the Spanish Jews. "She has made it her mission to leave a record of the lives and traditions of the Balkan Sephardim," wrote a reviewer from The Washington Post.

The conference keynote address also will be free and open to the public. "The Dress of the Jews of the Ottoman Empire," an illustrated lecture will be discussed by Nicholas Stavroulakis, Director of the Jewish Museum of Greece, Athens at 8 p.m. on April 5 in the University Union, room 133.

For more information on either event, call 777-3070.

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