

PRESS RELEASE

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Vox Ethnika to present concert at Heritage Discovery Center

July 29 program to feature Carpatho-Rusyn and Eastern European music

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. – Vox Ethnika will present a concert of traditional Carpatho-Rusyn and Eastern European music on Sunday, July 29 at 3:00 p.m. in the Heritage Discovery Center courtyard.

Vox Ethnika, which means “ethnic voice,” is based in New York City and is made up primarily of immigrants from Kamjunka, a Carpatho-Rusyn village in today's Slovakia. They are known for their energizing performances of original and traditional ethnic music of Eastern Europe adapted with modern arrangements that still preserve the depth, fire and heart of the songs. The band, which was formed in 1994 as S-Harmony, has performed at the Heritage Discovery Center in the past.

“Johnstown's population includes many people of Carpatho-Rusyn descent -- in fact, many immigrants to Johnstown came from Kamjunka, the hometown of Vox Ethnika's founders,” said Richard Burkert, executive director of JAHA. “They have a special connection to Johnstown, and we're delighted to host them once again.”

In addition to the music, traditional Rusyn foods will be available for sale.

“We're excited that we can bring Vox Ethnika back to Johnstown and hope Rusyns and non-Rusyns alike will come to enjoy their distinct sound,” said John Righetti, national president of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society.

The concert is sponsored by JAHA and the national Carpatho-Rusyn Society, which works to promote Carpatho-Rusyn culture in the United States and support Rusyn culture in east central Europe. The Carpatho-Rusyns are a modern ethnic group that lives primarily in modern-day Slovakia, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, and Croatia. As many as 600,000 Americans are of Carpatho-Rusyn descent.

Tickets, which will be available at the door on the day of the event, are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 17 and under. Children 4 and under will be admitted free. Proceeds benefit the Rusyn Radio Program, which can be heard on WEDO 810 am or anytime at the Carpatho-Rusyn Society's website, www.c-rs.org.

The Johnstown Area Heritage Association is a non-profit, membership-based organization dedicated to preserving and showcasing Johnstown's unique history to the nation through high-quality educational, cultural and recreational experiences. In addition to the Johnstown Flood Museum, the Frank & Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center, and the Wagner-Ritter House & Garden, JAHA produces the AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest, a 3-day free music festival held annually over Labor Day weekend; flood commemoration events; and a wide variety of additional cultural programming. The Johnstown Children's Museum is currently under construction and will open in early 2008. For more information on JAHA programs, museums and events, visit www.jaha.org.