The Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University presents

Elizabeth Cotten: Her Artistry and Her Legacy

Join us for an afternoon lecture given by Dan Franklin Ward, exploring the life of Elizabeth Cotten and her impact on American music.

Sunday, February 23, 2014
2:00—4:00 p.m.
Castellani Art Museum

Master Makers and Players Series
Events held in conjunction with the Folk Arts exhibition
Extraordinary Ordinary People: American Masters of Traditional Arts (February 2—June 20, 2014)

National Heritage Fellow, Elizabeth "Libba" Cotten (1893-1987), grew up near Chapel Hill, North Carolina in a family that had sung and played traditional country blues tunes for generations. Although she worked most of her life in domestic service, she became an acclaimed songwriter and performer, winning a Grammy Award and inspiring the praise of other musicians like Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Taj Mahal, and Jerry Garcia who covered her songs. Elizabeth Cotten eventually settled in Syracuse, New York where she was befriended by folklorist Dan Franklin Ward.

Dan Franklin Ward, Ph.D. is a Syracuse-based public folklorist and Curator at the Erie Canal Museum. Over the past decade, he has co-directed collaborations with a number of organizations on an extensive documentation of contemporary culture along inland waterways in upstate New York. Prior to undertaking his waterways project, Ward served as the Regional Public Folklorist in Central New York for 23 years. He holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from Bowling Green State University and an M.A. in Folklore from the Cooperstown Graduate Program.

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