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Scholar and Performer to Explore Musical Expressions of Gypsy Holocaust Remembrance at Ramapo College

(MAHWAH, NJ) – Petra Gelbart, who heads the Initiative for Romani Music at New York University, will speak at Ramapo College of New Jersey on March 26, 1-2 p.m. in the Trustees Pavilion, Room One, under the auspices of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Communications Arts Music Major and the Human Rights Club of Ramapo College.

Petra Gelbart is a Czech-born Romani (Gypsy) scholar, musician and activist. She received her doctorate in ethnomusicology from Harvard University with a dissertation titled "Learning Race, Music and Nation in the Czech Republic." Her publications include a forthcoming essay in *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. She heads the Initiative for Romani Music at New York University.

As a musician, Petra Gelbart is a founding member of *Via Romeni*. Petra combines the Romani vocal production she learned from her family with elements drawn from more improvisational and popular genres. Accompanying herself on the guitar and accordion, she has also performed as a soloist on many stages in the United States and abroad, including Sanders Theatre in Cambridge, Boston College, and at Romani festivals in California and the Czech Republic.

The presentation is free and open to the public.

For more information or to reserve a seat, please call 201.684.7409.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Universities North category for public institutions, Ramapo College of New Jersey offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work, as well as courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers six graduate programs and articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.

Undergraduate students choose to concentrate their studies in one of five schools with more than 700 course offerings and 40 academic programs. Ramapo College boasts an

average student/faculty ratio of 17:1 and average class size of 23, affording students the opportunity to develop close ties to the College's exceptional faculty.