The Germans from Russia Heritage Collection (GRHC) at the NDSU Libraries in Fargo reaches out to prairie families and former Dakotans. In various ways, it affirms the heritage of the Germans from Russia as an important part of the northern plains culture. Special holiday regards to readers of this column!

Prairie Public Television is in the final production stages for the new documentary of the music of the Germans from Russia. Filming was done in the Dakotas and Colorado. The concert choirs of Jamestown College and the University of Mary were closely involved.

This new music documentary premieres on PPTV on Sunday, April 24, 2005, at 7 pm (CDT). The program will later become available to other PBS stations.

These are sponsored Premiere Events: 1) Saturday, April 16, 2 pm, Heritage Center Auditorium, Capitol Grounds, Bismarck, ND; 2) Sunday, April 17, 2 pm, Reiland Fine Arts Center, Jamestown College, Jamestown, ND, 2 pm; and 3) Fargo Theatre, 314 Broadway, Fargo, ND, 6 pm. Sponsored by Prairie Public Broadcasting, these events are free and open to the general public.

Major financial sponsors for the music documentary are: North Dakota Council on the Arts; North Dakota Humanities Council; North Dakota State University Libraries; Germans from Russia Cultural Preservation Foundation; and the members of Prairie Public Television.

The music documentary is the fourth in the “Germans from Russia Series”. Previous documentaries are: 1) “The Germans from Russia: Children of the Steppe, Children of the Prairie” (1999); 2) Schmeckfest: Food Traditions of the Germans from Russia” (2000); 3) “Prairie Crosses, Prairie Voices: Iron Crosses of the Great Plains” (2002).