

Tiffin University Grads Marry and Perform



Dissonant Grace features the talents of Tiffin University alumni Morgen and Theo Stiegler. While at TU, Morgen and Theo were featured performers with the a cappella group, Up in the Air. Both are 2004 graduates. Brad Rees, Director of Performing Arts at TU, remarks, "Theo and Morgen were such important contributors in so many ways. Morgen's musical abilities as a vocalist, pianist and director were crucial to the growth of our music program, and Theo's work as vocalist, arranger and business manager really took Up in the Air to a new level while he was in the group. Now it's exciting to see them doing their own music in their own styles, and getting to use so many of their diverse talents." About the music of Dissonant Grace, Theo Stiegler explains, "Duke Ellington once said, 'If it sounds good, it is good.' That's basically our stylistic and artistic motto."

With a unique mix of alternative, experimental and acoustic styles, Dissonant Grace's music also incorporates the sounds and spirit of folk, world beat and chamber music. "I know that music helps us to discover the genuine: The spiritual life that lives within us. I know it is healing. I know it is a bonding agent for us humans," says Morgen Stiegler. "Theo and I write music because it is a window to the soul. We perform because we have a need to show others who we really are. We are so excited to be doing what we do."

The name Dissonant Grace is inspired by the belief that grace somehow finds all of us in all we do, and that dissonance may sometimes be harmonious, "especially when it's a graceful sort of dissonance." Ohio native Morgen plays keyboard, sings, and contributes most of the duo's original material. She has been a classically trained pianist since the age of 5. Theo, a native of East Germany, grew up listening to gospel and Bach. He is a classically trained cellist and guitarist, and also plays bass, sings, does vocal percussion, and arranges much of Dissonant Grace's musical material.

For more information, please visit www.myspace.com/dissonantgrace.