

# Klezmer concert leads Kultur Festival at FAU



Members of the 25-piece Klezmer Company Orchestra, which will perform the "NuKlezmerClassix" concert, the main event for Kultur Festival 2015, FAU Libraries' weeklong celebration of Jewish music and arts. (Submitted photo)

By **Randall P. Lieberman**  
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*contact the reporter*

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The "NuKlezmerClassix" concert — featuring the 25-piece Klezmer Company Orchestra (KCO), under the direction of Maestro Aaron Kula — will be the main event for Kultur Festival 2015, Florida Atlantic University Libraries' (FAU) seventh annual weeklong celebration of Jewish music and arts (Feb. 28 to March 7).

The festival will kick off on Saturday, Feb. 28, one day prior to the concert, and continue through Saturday, March 7. The Jewish Cultural Society (JCS) at FAU is the lead sponsor for the festival.

The JCS is a volunteer organization at FAU with a mission to advance Jewish cultural traditions and education at the university (as well as in its libraries), through philanthropic endeavors and programs.

"NuKlezmerClassix" — a concert featuring classic Klezmer melodies re-mixed with new orchestrations, exotic percussion and gypsy jazz — will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 1 at the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium (777 Glades Road) on FAU's **Boca Raton** campus.

Guest vocalists are Rebekah Diaz-Fandrei and Graham Fandrei. The concert kicks off KCO's 18th season at FAU.

KCO — FAU Libraries' professional ensemble-in-residence — will debut 20 songs, all of which were re-imagined from classic Klezmer melodies from FAU Libraries' print music archives.

Diaz-Fandrei and Fandrei, a talented South Florida husband-wife team, will sing 11 of the songs. One, "Reizele," a beautiful romantic ballad about a lost love, was written during the Holocaust and arranged and orchestrated by Kula for KCO.

The duo will also sing "I Heard a Song," a sorrowful love song about a gypsy woman that KCO trumpeter Chaim Rubinov arranged based on the 1932 song titled "Papirossen."

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"People are going to be surprised and entertained," said Kula, director of music performance and education at FAU Libraries. "This mix of tradition and fresh orchestrations will ignite the emotion of an inter-generational audience that loves both jazz and klezmer."

Other festival events include a screening of the critically-acclaimed Israeli film "The Other Son;" a lecture, "The Kabbalah of Forgiveness," by Henry Abramson, Ph.D.; a comedy show, "Take My Advice, I'm Not Using it," with New York comedienne Cory Kahaney; an intimate chamber music recital, "Great Jewish Composers of the 20th Century," featuring world-class violist Robert Davidovici and pianist Alan Mason; an intimate cantorial concert, "Moroccan Soul with Aaron Bensoussan and the Klezmer Company Trio;" and an intimate jazz concert, "Jewish Melodies in Jazztime," with vibraphonist Brian Potts and his jazz quartet.

Kula said: "KCO and the Kultur Festival have evolved into the crowning jewels of my work at FAU Libraries, and I am delighted that we are hosting another world-class, week-long celebration of Jewish music, art and culture as part of our community engagement."

For more information about any of these events — including days, times, ticket prices and ticket availability — visit <http://www.fauevents.com> or call 800-564-9539.

"NuKlezmerClassix" concert tickets are \$20- \$45, and tickets for the other festival events are either \$10 or \$13. To purchase tickets, visit <http://www.fauevents.com> or call the FAU Box Office at 800-564-9539.

To experience KCO, visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/klezmercompany> or <http://www.klezmercompany.com>.