

# Jewish Journal

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# Orchestra to have klezmer concert at FAU

The Jewish Cultural Society at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton will host Maestro Aaron Kula's Klezmer Company Orchestra for a concert titled "Klezmer: Traditional to Tango" at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 15.

The concert will be the first sponsored event of the season for the Jewish Cultural Society (JCS) at Florida Atlantic University (FAU).

The concert will be held at the Barry and Florence Friedberg Lifelong Learning Auditorium on FAU's Boca Raton campus (777 Glades Road).

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Maestro Aaron Kula, music director and accordionist for the Klezmer Company Orchestra (KCO) — the professional ensemble-in-residence at FAU Libraries — will lead KCO in a klezmer concert on Sunday, Nov. 15 at FAU in Boca Raton.

Submitted photo

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## ■ KLEZMER

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The Klezmer Company Orchestra (KCO) — the professional ensemble-in-residence at FAU Libraries — will present the concert in a style reminiscent of klezmer musical performances of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s.

The special engagement will feature 11 KCO members performing in two distinct ensembles.

During the concert's first half, the Miami Klezmer Tango Project quartet will perform Yiddish songs, *Freilachs* (Jewish traditional songs) and waltzes in an Argentinean/Uruguayan tango style popular in the first half of the 20th century.

The quartet will include a violin, accordion, piano and bass. It will

combine three elements: tango, jazz and klezmer.

The "Golden Age" of tango music and dance was at its peak from about 1935 to 1952, roughly contemporaneous with the Big Band era in the United States.

Jewish composers around the world such as Abraham Ellstein, Yosef Rumshinsky and Sholom Secunda found the tango very appealing and composed sexy tangos set to Yiddish lyrics.

Kula, the KCO music director and accordionist — along with Miami pianist Mia Vasilev — also will transform several traditional *Bulgars* (traditional Romanian songs) and *Freilachs* into tango dance pieces.

After intermission, the second half of the concert will feature KCO's seven-member

core soloists in the KCO Dance Band playing traditional, popular klezmer melodies in an American swing and jazz style.

The seven-member ensemble will feature an accordion, a violin, a saxophone, a trumpet, a trombone, a bass and drums.

The audience will hear familiar standard klezmer and Yiddish songs made famous during the "Golden Age of Radio" and in the Yiddish theaters on 2nd Avenue in New York City.

KCO will be playing swing and jazz songs as were broadcast on the American Jewish Radio Hour of the 1940s.

All of the concert's selections will reflect the diversity in the Jewish and Yiddish sheet music of FAU Libraries' Jewish Print Music Collection in

Special Collections.

The JCS organized in 2008 to advance Jewish cultural traditions and education at FAU and its libraries through philanthropic endeavors. It is a volunteer support organization at the university.

Admission to the concert — which is partially being sponsored by Stanley and Dottie Pierce of Boca Raton — is free for FAU students with an Owl ID card; \$25 for the general public; \$20 for JCS members; and \$30 for JCS member-couples.

There will be free parking in Lot Number 15 across from the Lifelong Learning Society Building.

To purchase tickets, visit [fauf.fau.edu/jcs-events](http://fauf.fau.edu/jcs-events), email [librariespr@fau.edu](mailto:librariespr@fau.edu) or call 561-297-3921.