



‘American Jewish New Year: Jazz & Wisdom’ at Delray's Crest Theatre

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Submitted by earl@southflori... on Mon, 2013-09-02 15:18

Holiday spirit – Klezmer style



SouthFloridaSunrise.com Staff report

September 3--Music director Aaron Kula and his nine-member Klezmer Company Orchestra (KCO) will be joined by scholar and humorist Henry Abramson, Ph.D., and vocalist Lloyd Reshard for “American Jewish New Year: Jazz & Wisdom,” a concert of music and commentary that highlights traditional cantorial melodies and themes associated with the Jewish holiday, on Sunday, September 8 at 3 and 7 p.m., at the Crest Theatre, 51 North Swinton Avenue in Delray Beach.

KCO, the professional ensemble-in-residence at Florida Atlantic University Libraries will perform new arrangements of congregational tunes set to harmonies influenced by American jazz, Negro Spirituals and old world Klezmer. Songs will include “Avinu Malkeynu” (Lord Our Father), made popular by singer Barbara Streisand; “Rosh Hashana in Swing,” “Chassidic Kaddish,” “Kol Nidrei Blues” and “Oseh Shalom a la Salsa.”

Kula, director of the music performance and education at FAU Libraries, uses primary source material from the Cantors Collections for the new arrangements selected for this unique outreach concert.

“The Americanization of Jewish music and culture began more than 350 years ago when the first Jewish immigrants came to America from Brazil,” said Kula. “Our performance celebrates the intersection of tradition and innovation so the concert experience is personal and relevant for a contemporary audience.”

Baritone Reshard, a Miami resident, will sing eight songs in Hebrew, Aramaic or English.

Abramson, dean of students at Touro College in Miami, will share stories and anecdotes on forgiveness, compassion, gratitude and love during the 90-minute concert.

“The music will translate the message of the High Holidays into a modern idiom, while I will provide universal insight, wisdom and humor from the ancient writings of the sages,” he said.

Tickets are \$36. [Click here for online sales](#), stop by or call the Crest Theatre box office (561-243-7922).