

JUNE 22, 2013

KULA DOES RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN AT FAU

by **JUANSKI**

Don't expect Maestro Aaron Kula to wear the white tie and tails on the flier for "Some Enchanted Evening," his eighth annual "Spirit of America" summer matinee concert.

He's trying to lighten up, and may go **Hollywood** in a less formal tie and jacket, Boca's resident music man said in advance of his 3 p.m. performance Sunday in the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium at **Florida Atlantic University**, 777 Glades Road, in **Boca Raton**.

As director of music performance and education for FAU's University Libraries, Kula has a mandate to play "serious music that connects with the American culture."

"I look at the New York Philharmonic, The Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony and Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the flagship American orchestras that are blending music, reimagining and revitalizing the concert experience," he said. "We're trying to find ways to pair music that might not normally be done by a serious orchestra."

Preparing to lead a 60-piece Klezmer Company Orchestra of professional musicians with a hand-picked soprano and baritone, Kula is mining the music of the Broadway giants for a reason, not just to have audiences hum along. He plans to feature 13 songs in the 90-minute performance before ending with his traditional medley of patriotic music.

Why did you choose Rodgers & Hammerstein?

We have almost all of their sheet music in our music collection. I love their music and the message of their shows. In my comments I will point out that each song deals with issues of social conscience. "Getting to Know You" is about bridging the cultural divide. We'll do "You'll Never Walk Alone" about grieving and hope. These are such universal themes.

How do you pick your musicians and vocalists?

I have a roster of 200 musicians and select the top musicians in the tri-county area. This year I invited two upcoming opera singers. Baritone Graham Fandrei sings with the **Florida Grand Opera** and **Miami** Lyric Opera. Soprano Jennifer Tipton, a graduate of the **University of Miami** opera program, has seven solos. South Florida Classical Review called her "a vocal standout."

What does music have to do with libraries?

I'm the lightning rod for showcasing the vast materials in the FAU Libraries. FAU wants to be recognized for having a very significant research library. I was asked by the dean and the university to showcase the Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection, more than 13,000 printed items from the American Revolutionary era and other imprints.

Who is your audience?

This is my 16th year leading the Klezmer Company Orchestra and we some have more than 15,000 fans that have expanded to young people. We have people from all walks of life and different culture, so it's now a mixed bag of ages and ethnic backgrounds. We have the zip codes and people from **Palm Beach Gardens**, **Broward County** and south Miami. This is not a local concert.

Concert tickets are \$18 to \$40. Call 800-564-9539 or visit fauevents.com.

Source Article from <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/palm-beach/boca-raton/fl-t2-kula-0619-20130619,0,1477266.story?track=rss>