

Klezmer Company Jazz Orchestra

Aaron Kula, music director

Bands and orchestras are living ensembles that must continue to evolve artistically and musically while remaining connected to its community. The **Klezmer Company Orchestra Klezmer Company Jazz Orchestra** recently rebranded as **Klezmer Company Jazz Orchestra**, was founded on that principal in 1997 by **Aaron Kula**, with a mission to reimagine music for the next generation and cross-genres that appeals to a multi-cultural global community. The ensemble performs a unique blend of folk and ethnic jazz as well as classical, and musical theatre, using a roster of accomplished jazz and classical musicians. In 2009, KCJO released its award winning CD *Beyond the Tribes*, which was selected in 2011 by the Library of Congress (LOC) for inclusion in the Copyright Acquisitions Division. The juried committee stated that this creative work represented an important cross section of American culture and would “enrich the collections.” In 2012, the Kula and the band released its second studio produced album titled *Klezmerology* and in March 2016 released its newest CD album called *JubanoJazz*, celebrating the fusion of Latin Jazz and vintage Klezmer melodies. Having toured in 2011 and 2014, Kula led KCJO on concert tours to California, Arizona, Rhode Island, and in 2015 was invited to perform in Canada at Ashkenaz Festival in Toronto and the Montreal Jewish Music Festival.

Aaron Kula is an accomplished conductor, composer, accordionist, and educator. His lifelong interest in Classical, Jazz and Folk music led him to form the award-winning **Klezmer Company Orchestra**, rebranded as the **Klezmer Company Jazz Orchestra**. In 2003 Aaron Kula was invited by Florida Atlantic University Libraries (FAU) to create an interdisciplinary music performance and education department that would serve as a catalyst to increase the library’s profile nationally and internationally. In 2009 he created the first Kultur Festival in residence at the FAU Wimberly Library, to celebrate Jewish music and art in the 21st century. As an orchestra conductor Kula has conducted throughout Europe and Israel and served on the conducting faculty at New England Conservatory of Music, Boston University, and Chautauqua Music School in New York. An active guest conductor, he has worked with Boston Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Erie Civic Ballet (PA), Boston Conservatory Symphony, Santa Fe Symphony, Boca Raton Sinfonia, and New Hampshire Ballet. He has worked with renowned artists including Yo-Yo Ma, and has led numerous international orchestra tours with NEC, Harvard, and Stanford universities. As an accordionist, he performs with **Klezmer Company Jazz Orchestra** and collaborates with artists from other institutions including the New World Symphony in Miami. From 2009-2011 he served as consultant for the Klezmer exhibit at the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix. Maestro Kula holds a Bachelor of Arts in music theory and Judaic studies from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Music in theory and conducting with Distinction in Performance from New England Conservatory of Music.

For additional information on KCO please visit: www.klezmercompany.com

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