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**“Kultur Festival 2010,” a Six-Day Celebration of  
Jewish Music and Arts, Kicks Off at FAU**

*Klezmer Company Orchestra, Conducted by Aaron Kula, to Present “JudeoJazzistico” as Main Event*

**BOCA RATON, FL (February 5, 2010)** – “Kultur Festival 2010,” a six-day celebration of Jewish music and arts, kicks off at Florida Atlantic University on Saturday, March 6, at 3 p.m. with “Klez4Kidz,” a multimedia presentation of the critically-acclaimed children’s book, *The Kugel Valley Klezmer Band* and concludes Thursday, March 11, at 7 p.m. with “Hazzanut Espagnol, Mizrachi & Ladino Love Songs,” a performance of songs from Persia, Iraq, Morocco, Turkey, Salonika and Spain. The 25-member Klezmer Company Orchestra (KCO), conducted by Aaron Kula, will present the festival’s main event, “JudeoJazzistico,” on Sunday, March 7, at 3 p.m.

The Kultur festival, now in its second year, is presented by FAU Libraries and will feature 12 events on FAU’s Boca Raton campus, 777 Glades Road. Tickets for events, excluding the concert, range from \$5 to \$12. Concert tickets range from \$18 to \$42. Festival passes are \$110 and include entrance to all events, premier concert seating and a copy of KCO’s award winning CD *Beyond the Tribes*. For tickets and a schedule, call 800-564-9539 or visit [www.faevents.com](http://www.faevents.com).

Kula, also director of music collections and performance at FAU Libraries, created the festival and tailors the events to showcase the library’s Special Collections & Archives. The music and art presented during the festival this year will expand its scope from European cultures to include fine and performing arts from the Americas, Mediterranean and Middle East.

“The main event of the festival with KCO will highlight the rich print music collection at FAU Libraries. The inaugural festival was such a success that we want this to be an annual tradition,” said Kula.

A pre-festival event, “Conversations & Coexistence: Cultural Diversity at FAU,” a student forum representing Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist students, will be held on Wednesday, March 3 at noon at the Wimberly Library. The event is free and open to the public.

The kickoff event, the reading of *The Kugel Valley Klezmer Band*, will be brought to life by narrator Riva Ginsburg and five KCO musicians. The event will be at the Wimberly Library and is appropriate for the entire family. Everyone is encouraged to bring blankets and be ready to dance to the musical interludes.

“Tantz & Salsa,” a lively social gathering, will follow on Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Live Oak Pavilion. Participants can have fun with traditional Latin and Jewish folk dancing led by professional instructors.

The festival also features Dr. Henry Abramson and Dr. Zion Zohar – two renowned Jewish scholars who will deliver the keynote address titled “Coexistence Through Culture,” on Sunday, March 7 at 1 p.m. at the Live Oak Pavilion.

“JudeoJazzistico” will be performed on Sunday at 3 p.m. at FAU’s Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium. KCO, FAU Libraries’ professional ensemble-in-residence, turns up the heat with the new Klezkatz vocal ensemble, to present a tour-de-force concert of new orchestrations. The concert will feature masterfully blended jazz and ethnic music.

The festival offers three traditional events that highlight Yiddish culture, including Dr. Jerry Glantz’s lecture on his book *The Man Who Spoke to God*, the story about his dad, Cantor Leib Glantz on Tuesday, March 9 at 3 p.m.; “Yiddish Zingfest” with singer and actress Phyllis Berk, who will sing songs from albums in FAU Libraries’ Judaica Sound Archives on Wednesday, March 10 at 3 p.m.; and the screening of “Yidl mitn Fidl,” a presentation that will feature KCO violinist Randi Fishenfeld on Monday, March 8 at 7 p.m. The events will be at the Wimberly Library.

Book arts collector Arthur Jaffe, curator of the Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts, and Jewish musicologist Cantor Morton Kula will explore the meaning, artistry and music of the Haggadah on Monday, March 8, at 2 p.m. An evening of songs and theater by Jewish composers and playwrights from Argentina will be performed on Tuesday, March 9, at 7 p.m. The festival also features an invitation for musicians to bring instruments and music stands, and jam with KCO and Kula on Wednesday, March 10, at 7 p.m. Both events will be at the Wimberly Library. The finale, Hazzanut Espagnol, Mizrachi & Ladino Love Songs, will be at 7 p.m. at the Barry and Florence Friedberg Lifelong Learning Center.

Kultur Festival 2010 is sponsored by the by FAU Libraries with additional support from the Jewish Cultural Society at FAU, the Nathan and Marion Crosby Holocaust and Judaic Library Collections Endowment Fund, WXEL and the South Florida Association of Jewish Libraries. Proceeds benefit FAU Libraries.

For more festival information visit [www.library.fau.edu/news/kultur.htm](http://www.library.fau.edu/news/kultur.htm), and to experience KCO visit [www.klezmercompany.com](http://www.klezmercompany.com).

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**Photo #1:** Conductor Aaron Kula with Klezmer Company Orchestra and KlezKatz.

**Photo#2:** “Yidl mitn Fidl” film screening and Q & A with Randi Fishenfeld, KCO violinist.

**Photo#3:** The art of Haggadah.

***About Florida Atlantic University:***

*Florida Atlantic University opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University serves more than 28,000 undergraduate and graduate students on seven campuses and sites. Building on its rich tradition as a teaching university, with a world-class faculty, FAU hosts 10 colleges: College of Architecture, Urban & Public Affairs, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Biomedical Science, the College of Business, the College of Education, the College of Engineering & Computer Science, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Graduate College, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. For more information, visit [www.fau.edu](http://www.fau.edu).*