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**Klezmer Company Orchestra Bound for First Out-of-State Tour**  
*FAU Libraries' Professional Ensemble-in-Residence to Perform Award-Winning 'Beyond the Tribes'*

**BOCA RATON, FL (March 25, 2011)** -- Klezmer Company Orchestra (KCO), the professional ensemble-in-residence at Florida Atlantic University Libraries, is bound for its first out-of-state tour, which will take the nine-member core ensemble to San Diego for a concert at the renowned Belly Up Tavern, to Tucson to raise money for the Jewish–Latino Teen Coalition, and to Phoenix, where it will present its signature concert, “Beyond the Tribes,” at the Musical Instrument Museum.

The “Beyond the Tribes” tour, which takes its name from KCO’s award-winning CD, will take KCO on the road for nine days beginning Saturday, March 26. Aaron Kula, director of music collections and performance at FAU Libraries, has been working toward a tour since he founded KCO 14 years ago to showcase FAU’s Wimberly Library’s print music collection.

“Touring out of state puts KCO on the map as a leader in the global landscape of musical arts,” said Kula, the ensemble’s music director and conductor. “Our arrangements and accomplished musicians offer a fresh perspective on multi-cultural music.”

The ensemble’s engagement at the internationally acclaimed Belly Up Tavern on Sunday, March 27 is part of the 12-year-old San Diego Jewish Music Series sponsored by the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture. The Solana Beach tavern has a history of hosting great live music and has been heralded by Rolling Stone Magazine as one of the hottest clubs on the west coast.

“I know KCO will be a hit for everyone who sees them,” said D. Candis Paule, music series producer for the Center for Jewish Culture. “The Belly Up is a southern California institution and a wonderful performance venue to showcase every sound that KCO has to offer.”

KCO will present “Beyond the Tribes: A Latin Jazz and Klezmer Extravaganza,” a benefit concert on Tuesday, March 29 in Tucson. The event is an effort among the offices of U.S. Reps. Gabrielle Giffords and Raul Grijalva, the Jewish Community Relations Council and the League of United Latin American Citizens to unite Jewish and Latino teenagers.

KCO will then head to Phoenix for the April 2 - April 3 “KlezFest,” which will be the Musical Instrument Museum’s first live presentation of Klezmer music. In addition to KCO’s

concert, Kula will present a lecture titled “American Yiddish Radio Hour,” and KCO will present music for Klez4Kidz,’ a dramatic reading of the award-winning children’s book “Mendel’s Accordion.”

An invitation for KCO to perform at the music theater was extended after Kula and other consultants assisted Sunni M. Fass, Ph.D., with an exhibition titled “Klezmer: Preserving and Reinventing Jewish Heritage” for the museum’s USA/Canada gallery. The exhibition is being updated and will not be featured during KlezFest.

“He provided invaluable input, especially regarding the Jewish music and Klezmer recording industry that sprung up in New York City with the influx of Jewish immigrants in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century,” said Fass, artistic and managing director of the music theater. “In his role at FAU Libraries, he helped the museum secure rights to use some fantastic archival sheet music covers and recordings that have become a popular component of the exhibit.”

KCO holds the distinction of being the only professional ensemble-in-residence at an academic library in the United States. The core ensemble includes accordion, violin, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, bass, piano, drums and Latin percussion. Just Plain Folks, the world’s largest independent music organization, awarded the “Beyond the Tribes” CD “Best Klezmer Album” and “Best Klezmer Song” for 2009.

For information about KCO during the tour, call Terri Berns at 561-212-5722 or Aaron Kula at 561- 414-4332.

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**Photo #1:** Aaron Kula, music director and conductor, with Klezmer Company Orchestra.

***About Florida Atlantic University:***

*Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. In commemoration of its origin, FAU is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary throughout 2011. Today, the University serves more than 28,000 undergraduate and graduate students on seven campuses and sites. FAU’s world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering & Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. For more information, visit [www.fau.edu](http://www.fau.edu).*