

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Terri Berns  
561-297-1164, [tberns@fau.edu](mailto:tberns@fau.edu)

## **Klezmer Company Orchestra Returns from Southwest Tour**

**BOCA RATON, FL (April 5, 2011)** - Klezmer Company Orchestra (KCO), the professional ensemble-in-residence at FAU Libraries, has returned from the southwest, where it picked up a following in California and Arizona during its first tour outside of Florida.

The “Beyond the Tribes” tour took Aaron Kula, KCO’s founder and conductor, and the nine-member core instrumental ensemble to such venues as the renowned Belly Up Tavern in Solana Beach near San Diego; the Jewish-Latino Teen Coalition at the Tucson Jewish Community Center Auditorium in Arizona; and the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix.

The 14-year-old ensemble wowed audiences from March 27 through April 3 with music from “Beyond the Tribes,” its award-winning CD of the same title. Audiences in the southwest were introduced to KCO’s Latin Jazz influenced Klezmer melodies, which fuse harmonies, rhythms and percussion of Latin America and Cuba and sounds of traditional Zydeco jazz. The music, already synonymous with the KCO name in South Florida, defies classification with its blend of tradition and innovation, and pushes melodic legacies into the future. Kula and KCO Trumpeter Chaim Rubinov created all of the arrangements and compositions for the tour.

“Leading KCO on its first national tour was a personal triumph and professionally gratifying as we reached out to thousands in communities beyond South Florida,” said Kula. “The audiences embraced our Latin Klezmer Jazz interpretations enthusiastically and welcomed us with open arms. I am absolutely delighted to have had the opportunity to represent FAU Libraries” in new regions across the U.S.”

Plans for the tour were put in motion after Kula assisted the Musical Instrument Museum in developing a Klezmer exhibition. Following the grand opening of the museum's music theater, the museum invited KCO for a weekend residency to perform two concerts and a lecture.

KCO, which showcases FAU Libraries' print collection, holds the distinction of being the only professional ensemble-in-residence at an academic library in the United States. The core ensemble consists of 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.

It always has been Kula's goal to introduce the music in FAU Libraries' print collection to the rest of the country.

"Touring nationally put KCO on the map as a leader in the global landscape of musical arts," said Kula. "The KCO concerts firmly established the ensemble as a progressive orchestra with a clear vision. Our music and level of excellence can compete at the highest level and offers a fresh perspective on multi-cultural music."