

[PHOTO ATTACHMENT]

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## **Klezmer Company Orchestra to Kick off 18<sup>th</sup> Season at FAU with ‘NuKlezmerClassix’ Concert**

**BOCA RATON, Fla. (February 13, 2015)** — The 25-piece Klezmer Company Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Aaron Kula, with guest vocalists Rebekah Diaz-Fandrei and Graham Fandrei, will kick off its 18<sup>th</sup> season at Florida Atlantic University with “NuKlezmerClassix,” a concert featuring classic Klezmer melodies re-mixed with new orchestrations, exotic percussion and gypsy jazz, on Sunday, March 1 at 3 p.m. at the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium, 777 Glades Road, FAU’s Boca Raton campus.

KCO, FAU Libraries’ professional ensemble-in-residence, will debut 20 songs, all of which were re-imagined from classic Klezmer melodies from FAU Libraries’ print music archives. Diaz-Fandrei and Fandrei, a talented South Florida husband-wife team, will sing 11 of the songs. One, “Reizele,” a beautiful romantic ballad about a lost love, was written during the Holocaust and arranged and orchestrated by Kula for KCO. The duo will also sing “I Heard a Song” a sorrowful love song about a gypsy woman that KCO trumpeter Chaim Rubinov arranged based on the 1932 song titled “Papirossen.” Three of the new songs were written by emerging composers who recently won KCO’s 2015 Composition Competition.

“People are going to be surprised and entertained,” said Kula, director of music performance and education at FAU Libraries. “This mix of tradition and fresh orchestrations will ignite the emotion of an inter-generational audience that loves both jazz and klezmer.”

The NuKlezmerClassix concert is the main event for Kultur Festival 2015, FAU Libraries’ seventh annual weeklong celebration of Jewish music and arts. The festival will kick off on Saturday, Feb. 28, one day prior to the concert, and continue through Saturday, March 7. The Jewish Cultural Society (JCS) at FAU is the lead sponsor for the festival as well as the second annual composition competition.

Other festival events include a screening of the critically-acclaimed Israeli film “The Other Son;” a lecture, “The Kabbalah of Forgiveness,” by Henry Abramson, Ph.D.; a comedy

show, “Take My Advice, I’m Not Using it,” with New York comedienne Cory Kahaney; an intimate chamber music recital, “Great Jewish Composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century,” featuring world-class violist Robert Davidovici and pianist Alan Mason; “Moroccan Soul with Aaron Bensoussan and the Klezmer Company Trio; and “Jewish Melodies in Jazztime,” with vibraphonist Brian Potts and his jazz quartet.

“KCO and the Kultur festival have evolved into the crowning jewels of my work at FAU Libraries and I am delighted that we are hosting another world-class weeklong celebration of Jewish music, art and culture as part of our community engagement,” said Kula.

NuKlezmerClassix Concert tickets are \$20- \$45 and tickets for the other festival events are either \$10 or \$13. To purchase tickets, call 800-564-9539 or visit [www.fauevents.com](http://www.fauevents.com). To experience KCO, visit [www.youtube.com/user/klezmercompany](http://www.youtube.com/user/klezmercompany) or [www.klezmercompany.com](http://www.klezmercompany.com).

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#### **Photo Caption**

**NuKlezmer1jpg:** Klezmer Company Orchestra with Aaron Kula, conductor.

#### ***About Florida Atlantic University:***

*Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU’s world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and 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. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of three signature themes – marine and coastal issues, biotechnology and contemporary societal challenges – which provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU’s existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit [www.fau.edu](http://www.fau.edu)*