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Kultur Festival – the celebration of Jewish culture – returns to FAU

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Rating 3.00 out of 5 ★★★★★ [?]

BOCARATON – Sephardic ballad singer Flory Jagoda, actress Lela Elam, acclaimed storyteller Caren Neille, drummer Reuben Hoch and the award-winning Klezmer Company Orchestra (KCO) are among the artists booked for "Kultur Festival 2012," an annual celebration of Jewish culture that will be held from Saturday, March 3, through Sunday, March 11, on Florida Atlantic University's Boca Raton campus, 777 Glades Road.

Now in its fourth year, the Kultur festival is sponsored by FAU Libraries and the Jewish Cultural Society (JCS) at FAU. The festival uses film and theater, lectures, storytelling, book arts and music to showcase FAU Libraries' special collections.

All but two of this year's festival events — the "Roots, Rhythm and Soul" concert and "Ladino Songs with Jagoda: The Joe Elias Memorial Concert" — will be held at the Wimberly Library. Parking is free, except at the meters.

On Sunday, March 4, at 3 p.m., at FAU's Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium, KCO will present "Roots, Rhythm and Soul," a concert of new arrangements and fresh orchestrations of music influenced by American and Latin Jazz, swing and Negro spirituals. Tickets are \$18, \$28, \$38 and \$43. A celebrity roast and toast dinner to honor KCO music director Aaron Kula will follow the concert. Tickets are \$72.

On Monday, March 5, at 7 p.m., the Florida premiere of the play "The Gospel According to Jerry" will be presented by Jeffrey Bruce and Miami native Lela Elam. The poignant comedy explores Jewish and black American relationships, stereotypes and spirituality. A question and answer session with playwrights Richard Krevolin and Irwin Kula will follow. Tickets are \$15.

On Tuesday, March 6, at 2 p.m., expert Yiddish singers and Cantors Elliott Dickler and Bill Lieberman will perform "Songs of Love from the Holocaust," a powerful recital of songs from the Holocaust that explores love of family, country and the Jewish people. The program will debut rare music, including "Shifela's Portrait" and "Es Brent" from FAU Libraries' Jewish sheet music collection. Tickets are \$10.

On Wednesday, March 7, at 2 p.m., Caren Neille, MFA, Ph.D., artist-in-residence, FAU School of Communication and Multimedia Studies, will present "Bubbe Mayses and Beyond," improvisational interpretations of tales from the Old Testament, Jewish folklore and Yiddish literature. Neille is the founding director of the South Florida Storytelling Project at FAU. Tickets are \$10.

On Thursday, March 8 at 7 p.m., drummer Reuben Hoch and the Chassidic Jazz Project will present a unique concert that blends traditional Chassidic melodies with chamber music and contemporary jazz. Tickets are \$12.

On Friday, March 9, at 2 p.m., fiber artist Louise Silk will present "The Quilting Path: Fabric, Thread and Kabbalah." Silk, a quilting professional for more than 40 years, explores the mystical practice of Kabbalah through quilting. Tickets are \$10.

On Sunday, March 11, at 2 p.m. at FAU's Lifelong Learning Society, "Ladino Songs with Flory Jagoda" will close out the Kultur Festival with Jagoda, one of the world's most beloved Ladino folk singers, and her ensemble singing songs dating back to the Spanish inquisition.

Tickets are \$15

For more information or tickets for the Kultur Festival, call 1-800-564-9539 or visit www.fauvents.com. Tickets can also be purchased at the FAU Box Office, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton.