

## Klez4Kidz

**What:** A live klezmer concert and book reading aimed at children in pre-school and early elementary school

**When:** 3 p.m. March 6

**Where:** Wimberly Library at Florida Atlantic University, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton

**Admission:** \$9 for adults, free for children younger than 12.

**Details:** Narrator Riva Ginsburg will read "The Kugel Valley Klezmer Band," accompanied by the Klezmer Company Orchestra.

**Information:** Go to [FAUEvents.com](http://FAUEvents.com)



Robert Duyos, Sun Sentinel

Aaron Kula leads a rehearsal of the Klezmer Company Orchestra at Florida Atlantic University. The orchestra will perform for pre-schoolers and their families on March 6 during a book reading in Boca Raton.

# LET'S DANCE! FAU LINKS KIDS TO KLEZMER MUSIC

Program aims to expose children to genre during celebration of Jewish culture

**By Lois K. Solomon**  
STAFF WRITER

You're never too old to dance to klezmer music. Or too young.

Florida Atlantic University's Klezmer Company Orchestra will perform for pre-schoolers and their families on March 6 during a dramatic children's book reading. Children will be invited to dance after every page of "The Kugel Valley Klezmer Band" is read, said Aaron Kula, orchestra founder.

The orchestra wants South Florida children to become part of the national revival of klezmer, the joyful music born in 15th-century Eastern Europe that often is associated with

Jewish weddings and celebrations.

"The primary goal is to expose them to books and to klezmer, which is in a constant state of revival," Kula said. "Every generation revives its own version. It's pretty wide open."

Klezmer music imitates the human sounds of laughing and crying, using instruments such as violins, accordions and clarinets, according to Klezmer Music 101 at [worldmusic.about.com](http://worldmusic.about.com).

The sounds were influenced by the music of surrounding cultures, including gypsy, jazz and folk. Much of klezmer culture was lost during the Holocaust, but a revival began in

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## Program links kids to part of their heritage

the 1970s. Several American groups became popular since then, including the Klezmerim, the Klezmatics and the New Orleans Klezmer All-Stars.

At FAU, the Klezmer Company Orchestra was founded in 1997. Kula said about 100 children and their families came to the first Klez4Kidz concert a year ago. The children's gathering is part of FAU Libraries' Kultur Festival, a six-day celebration of Jewish music, books, dance and film that begins with the

children's performance.

Heidi Estrin, librarian at Congregation B'nai Israel in Boca Raton, said the concept of making a book come alive with music will appeal to her synagogue's children, whom she is encouraging to attend the concert.

"The music is so fun and lively," Estrin said. "You want Jewish kids to know it's part of their heritage."

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