

Celebrating the arts in Boca

Six-day Kultur Festival runs through Thursday at FAU

By David A. Schwartz
STAFF WRITER

Florida Atlantic University's Kultur Festival 2010 is celebrating Jewish music and arts on the Boca Raton campus through Thursday.

The 25-member Klezmer Company Orchestra conducted by Aaron Kula will perform its JudeoJazzistico concert, the festival's main event, at 3 p.m. today.

"We created a new framework that is a combination of

classical and jazz, folk music, Arabic, European and Latin," said Kula, who also is director of music collections and performance at FAU Libraries.

The festival's keynote address, "Coexistence Through Culture," will be at 1 p.m. today at the Live Oak Pavilion. Scholars Henry Abramson, of the Touro College South in Miami, and Zion Zohar, director and chairman of the President Navon Program for the Study of Sephardic and Oriental Jewry at Florida International University,

will discuss the cultural bonds among Judeo, Christian and Muslim Diasporas.

Jews and Muslims coexisted in several Arab countries and in Spain, celebrating holidays together and sharing language, poetry and music, Zohar said. Exchanging ideas and thoughts can again create paths for understanding, he said, adding, "Unfortunately, we are not at that place at this time."

Arthur Jaffe, curator of the Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts at the university's

Wimberly Library, and retired cantor Morton Kula will examine the art and music of the Haggadah at 2 p.m. Monday. Among the Haggadahs in the collection is a facsimile of a 16th-century German Haggadah, a Haggadah from India and a comic book Haggadah.

"Yidl mitn Fidl," a classic 1936 film starring Molly Picon, queen of the Yiddish theater, will be shown at 7 p.m. Monday at the Wimberly Library.

The recently restored movie, in Yiddish with English subtitles, tells the story of a young girl who disguises herself as a boy to play in her uncle's klezmer

band. There will be a question-and-answer session following the screening.

The festival finale, "Hazzanut Espagnol, Mizrahi and Ladino Love Songs," at 7 p.m. Thursday, will feature Hazzan Howard Dardashti of Temple Torah in Boynton Beach, Cantor George Mordecai of Temple Emanuel in Miami Beach and the Susan Behar Sephardic Music Ensemble.

For a full schedule of events and tickets, visit www.fauevents.com or call 800-564-9539. For more information about individual festival events, visit www.library.fau.edu/news/kultur.htm.

