



# Benefactors Support Inaugural Spirit of America Festival

FAU Libraries and KCO, Aaron Kula, conductor, will kick off the inaugural three-day "Spirit of America Festival: A Celebration of Music and Arts" on June 21.

The festival, which will take place on FAU's Boca Raton campus, salutes composer Leonard Bernstein and showcases the Print Music Collection, the Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection and the Harold L. Glasser Collection. Inaugural sponsors include the family of the late Marvin and Sybil Weiner, Marny Glasser, First Southern Bank and The University Club at FAU.

The festival's main event will be the Florida premiere of the concert version of Bernstein's 1944 Broadway musical "On the Town," on Sunday, June 22 at 3 p.m. at the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium. The 50-member KCO will be joined by six guest opera singers and guest of honor Jamie Bernstein, the daughter of the legendary composer.

Kula and Bernstein, a writer and broadcaster, will open the festival with "An Intimate Conversation with Jamie Bernstein," a program that includes a meet-and-greet reception, on Saturday, June 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Wimberly Library. The festival will conclude with "Bernstein on Broadway," a piano-vocal recital with commentary by south Florida theater critic Bill Hirschman, on Monday, June 23, at 7 p.m. at the Wimberly Library.

"We continue to be inspired by Bernstein's creative genius," said Kula. "I am especially honored to be part of the Bernstein legacy and to conduct 'On the Town' as we celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary since its Broadway debut."

The musical-comedy "On the Town" is about three sailors who are eager to find romance and explore New York City in 1944 during a 24-hour shore leave. The concert has two acts and a cast of six singers who perform "New York, New York," "Come Up to My Place," "Ya Got Me," "Carried Away," "Some Other Time" and 19 other classics from Bernstein's first Broadway show. "On the Town" is rarely presented as a full-length concert and was last performed by the London Symphony Orchestra in 1992 under Michael Tilson Thomas.

In addition to the concert and the two programs, FAU Libraries will host the "Spirit of America Exhibition," a display of rare materials from the Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection and the Harold L. Glasser Collection, from Monday, June 16, through Friday, July 11, on the fifth floor of the Wimberly Library. The exhibition will feature influential texts that have contributed to Western Civilization since the invention of the printing press 500 years ago and materials from the Glasser collection, which honors the World War II bombardier and former president of Miss Universe, Inc.

The exhibition's hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Viewing by appointment is available by calling 561-297-3787 or 561-297-2693 or by emailing [lysca@fau.edu](mailto:lysca@fau.edu).

Concert tickets are \$20 – \$42. Tickets for "An Intimate Conversation with Jamie Bernstein" are \$25 and tickets for "Bernstein on Broadway" are \$15. To purchase tickets, call 800-564-9539 or visit [www.faevents.com](http://www.faevents.com).



Jamie Bernstein