

South Florida concerts to feature Jewish conductor, songwriter



COURTESY

Aaron Kula (playing the accordion) will perform with the Klezmer Company Jazz Orchestra in concert Nov. 19 at 3 p.m. at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

By Marvin Glassman
Special Correspondent

Jewish musicians Steve Dorff and Aaron Kula will be performing in two concerts in Boca Raton this week.

Kula, founder and music director of the Klezmer Company Jazz Orchestra, will feature his nine-member band and Israeli singer Rachel Joy Weiss, performing songs from "The American Klezmer-Yiddish Songbook" on Nov. 19 at 3 p.m. at the Friedberg Auditorium at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

The concert is co-sponsored by FAU Libraries and the Jewish Cultural Society, a not for profit organization to advance Jewish cultural traditions at FAU Libraries.

Songwriter Steve Dorff, known for his popular songs "I'll Just Fall in Love Again" and "Through the Years," will perform his songs along with a discussion of his biography "I Wrote That One Too... A Life In Songwriting From Willie To Whitney" on Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Levis Jewish Community Center in Boca Raton.

The concert is co-sponsored by FAU Libraries and the Jewish Cultural Society, a not for profit organization to advance Jewish cultural traditions at FAU Libraries.

Kula, Weiss and the KCJO will be performing Klezmer and Yiddish songs from the Jewish Sheet Music Collection found in the FAU Libraries Special Collections.

"The songs in this collection form the basis of the music that our parents and grandparents loved and related to. It is so important to keep the love of this music alive for new generations to know," said the 58-year-old Kula.

Among the many popular Yiddish songs that Weiss will sing along with the KCJO conducted by Kula will be "Belz," "My Yiddishe Moma" and "Tumbalalaika," among other song selections.

Born and raised in Long Island,

Kula's father was Cantor Morton Kula, considered as one of America's top cantors.

Kula developed his love for Jewish music and Klezmer in his teens. He has been conducting orchestras for more than 35 years. He has six brothers, one being Cantor Marc Kula of Bet Shira Congregation in Miami and another is Rabbi Irwin Kula, who is known for hosting the 13 part television series "Simple Wisdom With Irwin Kula."

For tickets at Florida Atlantic University, 777 Glades Road in Boca Raton, call 561-297-2186 or go to www.fau.edu.

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