

KLEZMER | COMPANY
J A Z Z | ORCHESTRA
AARON KULA, director

Biographies 2020

www.aaronkula.com

www.klezmercompany.com

AARON KULA

An internationally recognized conductor, educator, composer, accordionist, and producer, Aaron Kula was awarded a Fulbright Specialist grant to conduct and lecture in Israel with appearances at the U.S. Embassy, Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, community music schools in the Negev, and conservatories in the Western Galilee. In May 2018 the United States Congress awarded Mr. Kula a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for his “outstanding and invaluable service to the community” in the field of music. During his 25-year residency in Boston, he attended New England Conservatory of Music where he later joined the conducting faculty from 1986-2013. Mr. Kula has held conducting posts at Chautauqua Music School in New York and has appeared as guest conductor with Boston Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Boston Conservatory, Boston University, Santa Fe Symphony, Erie Ballet (PA), New Hampshire Ballet, Boca Sinfonia as well as honors orchestras throughout the U.S. A faculty member of the Florida Atlantic University from 1997 to 2020, he led orchestral and Klezmer ensembles for the music department and in 2003 was appointed director of Music Performance and Education for the FAU Libraries. In 2020, he was appointed conductor of the Florida Youth Orchestra’s Principal Orchestra.

In 1997 Kula founded the award-winning **Klezmer Company Jazz Orchestra (KCJO)** and produced three studio albums of ‘folk jazz’ with KCJO - *Beyond The Tribes* (2009), *Klezmerology* (2011), and *JubanoJazz* (2016). In 2011, *Beyond the Tribes* was selected by the Library of Congress (LOC) for inclusion in the Copyright Acquisitions Division as an important work to “enrich the collections.” From 2011 through 2014, Mr. Kula led KCJO on a concert tour of the West Coast and New England and in 2015 KCJO performed at the Ashkenaz Festival in Toronto and the Montreal Jewish Music Festival. He has composed and arranged over 200 compositions for KCJO and performed for more than 150,000 people at live concerts over the past 20 years.

Mr. Kula holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Theory and Judaic Studies from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Music in Theory and Conducting with Distinction in Performance from New England Conservatory. www.aaronkula.com

KLEZMER COMPANY JAZZ ORCHESTRA (KCJO)

KCJO is a living ensemble that continues to evolve and develop new programs. KCJO was founded in 1997 by Aaron Kula with a mission to reimagine vintage melodies and perform multi-cultural music from all genres. The ensemble performs a unique blend of folk music, ethnic jazz, and musical theatre, utilizing a roster of accomplished musicians. Kula has arranged/composed over 200 compositions for the band over the past two decades. The band has recorded three studio albums to critical acclaim and toured throughout the US and Canada. 2020 marks KCJO’s 23rd season. www.klezmercompany.com.