FAU’s ‘Lost Valentine’
Library mixes books with music to host unique concert

By Jason Parsley

Florida Atlantic University’s Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts will host Grammy award-winning singer/songwriter Matt Alber for a concert, "Lost Valentine," Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 8 p.m. at FAU’s Boca Campus’ Wimberly Library, 777 Glades Road.

This will be his third appearance at the Book Arts Center.

"It’s exciting singing when you’re surrounded by one of a kind books. Almost all of them are hand made," the openly gay singer said. "It’s such a lovely spot. It’s also surprisingly fun to go to the library when you don’t have to study, and instead just listen to music."

But there’s another reason he enjoys the center so much.

"I like to go early and get my hands dirty and design a special poster for that concert," he explained. "There are these two very old printing presses. You have to ink the letters up. Print it all by hand. It’s kind of a rare experience to do this by hand. There’s no electronic component."

Alber’s concert will feature a night of original songs. The classically trained artist is best known for "End of the World," a 1960s-themed music video featured in his 2008 debut album, which earned an Out Music Award. His second album released in 2011, "Constant Crow," focuses on gay spirituality.

"The thing about seeing someone like Matt Alber at the Jaffe Book Arts Gallery is it’s kind of like seeing him perform in your living room," said John Cutrone, director of the center. "The setting is intimate. The space is beautiful. A baby grand piano, lamplight, Matt Alber and his guitar, and about 50 folks, mesmerized. There’s nothing like it."

The event begins at 7 p.m. with a reception and cash bar. Tickets are $30. More information call 561-397-0455, email jeutrone@fau.edu or visit www.jaffecollection.org and click "events."