Musical program to celebrate Jewish, black cultures

Sunday night, the Eissey Theatre will transform into a musical melting pot.

The Klezmer Company, the professional musical ensemble in residence at the Florida Atlantic University Libraries, and the 36-voice Ebony Choir of the Palm Beach gardens will perform "Klezmer Does the Blues."

The program celebrates the musical and spiritual connections of the Jewish and African-American cultures, and will be performed at the theater on Palm Beach Community College's Palm Beach Gardens campus.

The Klezmer ensemble comprises eight members playing electric and acoustic violin, saxophone, clarinet, trumpet, flugelhorn, trombone, bass, drums, ethnic percussion, piano and accordion. Its members have performed with Frank Sinatra, Bruce Springsteen, Barbra Streisand and The Moody Blues, and Terri Berns, director of cultural affairs for FAU's libraries.

Aaron Kula, Klezmer's director, is the libraries' resident scholar in music. "I firmly believe that Klezmer music is universally appealing because of its common themes of goodness in the face of adversity, hope in the face of hate, and good in the face of evil," Kula said.

The show will include selections from George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," "Summertime," "Old Time Religion," "New Orleans Klezmer" jazz, spirituals and Klezmer classics.

"This performance represents a unique opportunity for displaying cultural diversity, not only from a musical standpoint, but also from the more collaboration of two cultural heritages, both with rich, historical significance," said Deville Brown, founder and director of the Ebony Choir, which has performed with artists including Roberta Flack, Peabo Bryson, Aaron Neville and Melissa Manchester.

Tickets start at $10, and group discounts are available. For info, premier seating is available and includes a $50 p.m. per seat, call 657-3967. For more info, call 657-3967. www.texaspost.com. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.