Klezmer concert to feature music of Gershwin, Copland

Conductor Aaron Kula and the Klezmer Company Orchestra will get an early start on celebrating Independence Day when the orchestra performs "Spirit of America: Gershwin & Copland" on June 28 at the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium on the Florida Atlantic University campus in Boca Raton.

The eight-member orchestra will expand to 50 pieces and be joined by the 40-voice Ebony Chorale of the Palm Beaches for the 3 p.m. musical salute to America. The concert will feature signature pieces of George Gershwin and Aaron Copland, two of America's most important and influential 20th century composers.

Pianist Mark Galsky will play Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." Galsky will be familiar to listeners as the host and producer of the weekday Mid-Morning Musicale show on WXEL radio 90.7-FM. He also will accompany several musical artists in the show.

The Ebony Chorale will perform 14 songs from Gershwin's classic American opera "Porgy and Bess," with guest soprano Elizabeth Graham singing the role of Bess and guest bass-baritone Alvie Powell singing the role of Porgy. Songs will include "My Man's Gone Now," "Summertime" and "It Ain't Necessarily So."

The Klezmer Company Orchestra will open the concert with the brass section performing Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man."

FAU President Frank Brogan will narrate Copland's "Lincoln Portrait" to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. Brogan, who has studied Lincoln's life and writings since he was a child, called the opportunity to narrate the famous piece an honor: "To speak the words he wrote is a dual honor," Brogan said.

He admitted more than two weeks before the performance that he was a little nervous about it. "The words are those of someone he greatly admires," Brogan said. "Abraham Lincoln is my favorite character in American history."

In his role as guest narrator of Copland's "Lin-