“Spirit of America” concert at FAU to feature Klezmer Orchestra

FROM STAFF REPORTS

“Spirit of America: The Concert,” featuring the music of composers George Handel, Samuel Barber, Charles Ives, George Gershwin, Scott Joplin and George Gershon, will be presented by the 42-piece Klezmer Company Orchestra, conducted by Aaron Kula, on Sunday, July 1, at 3 p.m., at Florida Atlantic University’s Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium, in the University Center, on FAU’s Boca Raton campus.

“The concert, performed by classical and jazz musicians, includes works of composers from 18th century Handel to 20th century Gershwin and a who’s who of American composers,” said Kula, director of music collections and performance at FAU Libraries. “It gives a unique opportunity to reflect the diversity of American orchestral music.”

The program opens with Handel’s “Music for the Royal Fireworks,” which reflects the popular music performed in Europe and America in the 18th century.

The program changes genres beginning with a group of American folk songs, such as Antonin Dvorak’s “Goin’ Home” and Ervin Roxey’s “Orange Blossom Special,” performed by KCO violinst, Raadi Vahle, and special guest soloist Elena Covalt, a Portuguese-American soprano trained at the Juilliard School, will sing Barber’s “Knoxville Summer 1915” to celebrate the 60th anniversary of this work’s premiere.

Representing the quintessentially 20th century crossover American composer who drew upon jazz and classical musical traditions, the program includes Gershwin’s “An American in Paris.”

Continuing in the spirit of music idiomatic of the American vernacular, the program also includes “The Entertainer,” by Joplin, followed by Gershwin’s “Star Spangled Spectacular,” which features an audience sing-a-long.

The contributions of Benjamin Franklin will be celebrated during the program. Kenneth Keaton, associate
The second work, Ives' "Variations on America," represents the melodic connection between England and America, and uses an adapted version of "God Save the Queen," which was later used for the American ver-
dean and professor of music for the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters at FAU, will join the concert in full colonial attire as the program's emcee, bringing Franklin's wit and wisdom to the stage.

For tickets or additional information on the concert, call 800-564-9539 or visit www.fauevents.com. Ticket prices are $15, $20, with $25 premiere seating. Group discounts are also available.

1 - Klezmer Company Orchestra.

2 - Aaron Kula, FAU Libraries' director of music collections, conducts the Klezmer Company Orchestra.

3 - Aaron Kula, music director of the Klezmer Company Orchestra, and Kenneth Keaton as Benjamin Franklin.