KCO Salutes Leonard Bernstein with Florida Premiere of ‘On the Town’ during Inaugural Spirit of America Festival at FAU

Maestro Aaron Kula’s 50-member Klezmer Company Orchestra will be joined by six guest opera singers and guest of honor Jamie Bernstein for the Florida premiere of the concert version of composer Leonard Bernstein’s 1944 Broadway musical “On the Town” on Sunday, June 22, at 3 p.m. at Florida Atlantic University’s Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton campus.

The concert is the main event for a three-day inaugural “Spirit of America Festival: A celebration of Music and Arts” that salutes the iconic Bernstein and showcases FAU Libraries’ Print Music Collection, the Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection, the Harold L. Glasser Collection and other special collections.

Kula, director of KCO, which is the professional ensemble-in-residence at FAU Libraries, and writer and broadcaster Jamie Bernstein, the daughter of the legendary composer, will open the festival with “An Intimate Conversation with Jamie Bernstein,” a program that includes a meet-and-greet reception, on Saturday, June 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Wimberly Library. The festival will conclude with “Bernstein on Broadway,” a piano-vocal recital with commentary by south Florida theater critic Bill Hirschman, on Monday, June 23, at 7 p.m. at the Wimberly Library. During the recital, two distinguished vocalists will perform selections from “West Side Story,” “Wonderful Town,” “Candide,” “Peter Pan” and other songs composed by Bernstein, who often used New York City and Broadway as inspiration for his musicals. “On the Town,” Bernstein’s first Broadway show, premiered 70 years ago. The London Symphony Orchestra last performed the musical comedy as a full-length concert in 1992 under Michael Tilson Thomas.

The festival is hosted by FAU Libraries and made possible by inaugural sponsors; the Weiner Family, Marny Glasser, First Southern Bank and The University Club at FAU.

Concert tickets are $20 - $42. Tickets for “An Intimate Conversation with Jamie Bernstein” are $25 and tickets for “Bernstein on Broadway” are $15. To purchase tickets, call 800-564-9539 or visit www.fauevents.com.

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Photo Captions
SOA20141.jpg: Composer Leonard Bernstein.
SOA20142.jpg: Aaron Kula, director of Klezmer Company Orchestra.
SOA20143.jpg: Writer and narrator Jamie Bernstein.

About Florida Atlantic University:
Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of $6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU’s world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of three signature