

MEDIA CONTACT: Carol Lewis
561-297-0245, clewis36@fau.edu

“Spirit of America: Gershwin & Copland,” Conducted by Aaron Kula, Celebrates FAU Libraries’ Marvin and Sybil Weiner Collection
Two Funds to Support FAU Libraries Introduced at KCO Concert

BOCA RATON, FL (August 5, 2009) – Florida Atlantic University Libraries recently hosted “Spirit of America: Gershwin & Copland,” a celebratory concert performed by the 50-piece Klezmer Company Orchestra, which was conducted by Maestro Aaron Kula and joined by the 40-voice Ebony Chorale of the Palm Beaches.

The concert at Florida Atlantic University’s Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium on FAU’s Boca Raton campus drew more than 2,000 people, including FAU President Frank T. Brogan ’81 who narrated Copland’s “Lincoln Portrait” in honor of Abraham Lincoln’s 200th birthday.

Among the honored guests were Marvin and Sybil Weiner of Boca Raton, who in 2006 donated the “Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection,” prompting the annual Spirit of America concert. This collection, focusing on the American Revolutionary era, contains more than 13,000 printed items with publication dates spanning six centuries.

Two funds to support FAU Libraries were introduced during the concert. The “Weiner Spirit of America Collection Fund” was set up to help the library do additional educational outreach programs to benefit future generations of students and scholars. For more information on the Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection, contact Ellen Randolph at 561-297-3594 or erandoll@fau.edu, or visit www.library.fau.edu/depts/spc/weiner.htm. The Klezmer Company Orchestra Professional Ensemble-in-Residence Fund accepts donations of print music to enhance and preserve the musical heritage and financial contributions to help the library continue its outreach and performances.

Other concert guests were FAU First Lady Courtney Brogan; Weiner family members Dr. Howard and Judith Weiner, and Richard and Esther Granade; Normal R. Rales; Marleen Forkas; Dr. Bernard Chodorkoff; Jan Jessup; Joel and Patricia Frost; Arthur Jaffe and Marianne Haycook; FAU Provost Dr. John Pritchett and his wife, Ginger; Joanna Marie, host of WXEL’s Classical Variations; Stanley and Dottie Pierce; and Dr. William Miller, dean of Libraries at FAU.

Kula is conductor of the KCO, as well as FAU Libraries' director of music collections and performance. Since he founded KCO in 1997, the ensemble has successfully taken music in the library's collections "from shelf to stage." Kula is credited with composing and orchestrating more than 150 works for KCO.

Pianist Mark Galsky, host/producer of WXEL's Mid-Morning Musicale, performed Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." KCO violinist Randi Fishenfeld made her annual cameo appearance, performing her unique version of the Florida folk song "Orange Blossom Special."

The concert concluded with 14 songs from the classic American opera "Porgy and Bess" sung by the Ebony Chorale of Palm Beaches, under the direction of Dr. Orville Lawton. The role of Bess was sung by guest soprano Elizabeth Graham, and the role of Porgy was sung by guest baritone Alvy Powell.

The Ebony Chorale made its debut in 1992 when it performed with the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus during the dedication of the Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach. The chorale is dedicated to performing and preserving Negro Spirituals. Its repertoire also includes sacred and secular classics, folk songs and gospel.

The concert was sponsored by FAU Libraries with additional support from WXEL and FAU's Student Union.

For more information about the music collections or KCO, contact Aaron Kula at 561-297-3742 or akula@fau.edu. You can also visit

www.library.fau.edu/music/music_collections.htm and www.klezmercompany.com.

-FAU-

Cutlines

Photo #1: Seated are Sybil and Marvin Weiner; standing left to right are FAU President Frank T. Brogan, '81, Aaron Kula, KCO conductor; Judith and Dr. Howard Weiner and Esther and Richard Granade.

Photo #2: Left to right, FAU First Lady Courtney Brogan, FAU President Frank T. Brogan, '81, and Marlene Forkas.

Photo #3: Left to right, Elizabeth Graham, guest soprano; Alvy Powell, guest baritone; and Conductor Aaron Kula and Klezmer Company Orchestra.

Photo #4: Left to right, Dr. Bernard Chodorkoff, KCO Conductor Aaron Kula, FAU Provost and Chief Academic Officer Dr. John Pritchett and wife, Ginger; and Mort Kula.

Florida Atlantic University opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University serves more than 26,000 undergraduate and graduate students on seven campuses strategically located along 150 miles of Florida's southeastern coastline. Building on its rich tradition as a teaching university, with a world-class faculty, FAU hosts nine colleges: College of Architecture, Urban & Public Affairs, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Biomedical Science, the Barry Kaye College of Business, the College of Education, the College of Engineering & Computer Science, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science.