



Purchase College

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

The Performing Arts Center

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PURCHASE — Celebrate the holidays with the critically acclaimed Klezmer Conservatory Band at 3 p.m. December 13 in the PepsiCo Theatre of The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, N.Y.

The band has adapted klezmer music to new rhythms and instruments for an engaging program. According to the Muskegon (Mich.) Chronicle, “... the Klezmer Conservatory Band is a fine example of what standing ovations should be saved for. The musicians deserved all the shouts, whistles and stamping of feet they received.”

Tickets are \$42.50 and \$52.50, adults; \$22.50 and \$27.50, children.

Klezmer music began in medieval Europe, where bands of itinerant Jewish musicians went from town to town playing for Jewish festivals and special events. By the 19th century, klezmer music had become a well-developed musical style, taking its inspiration not only from the synagogue, but from the non-Jewish culture that surrounded it. In America, immigrant Jewish musicians adapted this music to the new rhythms and instruments they found, creating new klezmer forms. Until the 1940s, klezmer orchestras flourished, but with the new styles of music, and the immigrant Jews' desire to appear "American," the klezmer tradition faded. Today, however, a klezmer revival is in full swing, with

the Klezmer Conservatory Band playing a prominent role. Fueled by a desire to return to his roots, and the inherent appeal of the music, Hankus Netsky, the band's founder, discovered that both a grandfather and an uncle were in Philadelphia klezmer orchestras in the 1920s. In 1980, while an instructor at the New England Conservatory of Music, he formed the band.

Since then, the band has performed throughout the United States and Europe in major concert halls and music festivals, performed on radio and television and made several recordings.

For more information and to buy tickets, call **The Performing Arts Center** ticket office (914-251-6200). For more information, log onto The Center's Web site **www.artscenter.org**.

The Center's 32nd season is made possible, in part, by the Basic Program Support Grant of Arts Westchester with funds from Westchester County Government. Major sponsorship for the 2009-2010 season is provided by Vivian Milstein through the SVM Foundation. We thank our dear friend Vivian Milstein for her generous gift, which has made possible this concentration of great artists in one season.

Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, N.Y., is located 28 miles northeast of New York City at the Connecticut border. The College, part of the State University of New York, is an institution of public higher education encompassing the liberal arts and sciences, professional training in the performing and visual arts, continuing education, The Neuberger Museum of Art and The Performing Arts Center.