

## University Events sponsors the Klezmer Conservatory Band

**December 12, 1985**

### UEO SPONSORS THE KLEZMER CONSERVATORY BAND

Imagine Jewish ragtime music spiked with early tin-pan-alley, and mixed with a little New York Yiddish theater. The result is the Klezmer Conservatory Band, a group of approximately 14 musicians who will perform their upbeat, happy tunes at an 8 p.m. concert, Jan. 13, in the University of California, San Diego's Mandeville Center Auditorium.

Klezmer music has eastern European roots, dating back to medieval times. It was the music played by small bands of wandering Jewish gypsies for weddings and festivals. It has survived the 20th century, and now the Klezmer Conservatory Band brings its hybrid version of klezmer music to the American stage.

The band was formed about five years ago in Boston under the guidance of alto saxophonist and pianist Hancus Netsky. Netsky, 29, grew up in East Mount Airy, outside of Philadelphia. He was vaguely aware that several of his ancestors had played in Philadelphia klezmer orchestras in the twenties and thirties. It was only after studying ethnic music at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music that Netsky's curiosity about his own musical heritage was stirred.

The band, whose members are a racial mix, learns most of its repertoire by ear from Netsky. The musicians come from jazz, classical and Latin disciplines, and are all graduates of the jazz-oriented New England Conservatory of Music.

The group's vocalist, Judy Bressler, has a solid command of Yiddish and an appealing voice that has the quality and range of a classically trained instrument and the flexibility of a more pops-oriented performer. She belts out her solos with conviction and an uninhibited style, says James Chute of the Cincinnati Post.

The Klezmer Conservatory Band has released two albums, called, "Yiddishe Renaissance," (VSD 79450) and "Klez!" (VSD 79449).

Tickets are available from the UCSD Box Office and from TicketMaster. Prices are: general admission, \$10; seniors, \$8; students, \$5. For more ticket information, please call 452-4559. The Klezmer Conservatory Band is presented by the UCSD University Events Office.

(December 12, 1985) Media Contact: Ruth Baily, University Events Office, 452-4909 or Alixandra Williams, Public Information Office, 452-3120