



Colin Gustafson/The Journal News

Kenny Green, music director of the Westchester Klezmer Program, conducts a 24-member adult ensemble Sunday at the White Plains Public Library.

## Jewish music moves fans

Group stirs up the sounds of klezmer for library audience

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WHITE PLAINS — The sounds of Jewish folk music, from lively wedding songs to mournful ballads, filled the White Plains Public Library on Sunday afternoon.

Nearly 100 fans gathered in the auditorium to listen to the Westchester Klezmer Program, a group of local musicians, or “klezmorim,” dedicated to performing the tradi-

tional music of Eastern European Jews.

Klezmer music imitates human sounds such as laughing and crying, using instruments like violins, accordions and clarinets, said Mindy Hermann-Zaidins of Mount Kisco, the program’s founder.

“It’s a very emotive type of music, so the instruments are supposed to be like a person’s voice,” she said.

Hermann-Zaidins said she founded the Westchester Klezmer Program about 10 years ago, after her twin sons, David and John, then 11, set out to learn the compositions of Itzhak Perlman for their

Bar Mitzvah.

Since then, the program has grown to more than 50 amateur and professional musicians, ages 10 to 60, from nearly a dozen synagogues across Westchester.

The twins, now juniors in college, performed with the program’s 24-member adult ensemble Sunday.

Kenny Green, the music director, said the goal is to bring the joy of klezmer music to a wider audience.

“We play retirement communities, for people with developmental disabilities, community functions,” he said. “We play all over Westchester County.”