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IWU Collegiate Choir to Perform at Local Church

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March 15, 2006

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IWU Collegiate Choir to Perform at Local Church

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The Collegiate Choir from Illinois Wesleyan University will present a concert on March 28, at 8 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church (502 E. Front St., Bloomington). The second half of the performance will begin with the world premier of *My Soul Borne Up*, a commissioned work by Libby Larson, one of America's most performed living composers.

The event is free and open to the public.

The concert will conclude the Collegiate Choir's spring tour, which will take them through Kentucky, West Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Missouri, and Illinois.

The 59-voice choir is composed of students representing many areas of the University. Students in the choir are selected by audition and maintain a rigorous rehearsal schedule in preparation for their concert tour and other engagements throughout the year.

The choir is under the direction of J. Scott Ferguson, professor of music and director of choral activities. Ferguson's choral ensembles have received critical acclaim for their "exquisite discipline, enthusiastic singing and total responsiveness." Upon hearing a recent tour concert, a conductor from New York noted, "Full, clear voices full of joy in ensemble singing. Go where they are and listen and revel in outstanding choral singing."

The choir has established a long history of excellence through its on-campus performances, annual tours and recordings.

This year's tour program will begin with motets from the Renaissance and Baroque periods by Hans Leo Hassler, Melchior Vulpius, Antonio Lotti, and Orlando di Lasso. Then following will be three part songs by Johannes Brahms. The featured work on the first half of the program will be *Hymn to St. Cecilia* by Benjamin Britten.

The second half of the concert will be devoted to contemporary choral music, beginning with the new piece by Larsen. Other works will include *Solóvushko* (The Nightingale) by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky and Aaron Jay Kernis's *I Cannot Dance, O Lord*. The program will close with *Rondes* by Folke Rabe, and Robert Starer's *A Little Nonsense*.

For more information, contact the School of Music office at (309) 556-3061.