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September 25, 2008

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The Blue Moon Coffeehouse presents Melissa Ferrick

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Melissa Ferrick will perform Saturday, October 18 at 8 p.m. at Illinois Wesleyan's Blue Moon Coffeehouse. The performance will take place in the Young Main Lounge of the Memorial Center (104 E. University St., Bloomington). Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and coffee and light pastries will be available.

During her childhood, Ferrick, an American singer-songwriter and self-taught guitarist from Ipswich, Mass, would accompany her father, who managed several jazz bands in the Boston area, to clubs to hear the bands play. By age five, Ferrick was learning classical violin and piano. Since then she has received 12 years of formal music training, including two years each at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Mass. and the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

Ferrick started her career playing in coffeehouses in the East Village of New York. In 1991, she gained popularity by becoming the last minute opening act for the singer Morrissey, and later, she signed a recording contract with Atlantic Records. Her first studio album, *Massive Blur*, was released in 1993.

In 1996 Ferrick signed with the indie record label, What are Records? She released three albums with the label. In 2000, Ferrick founded her own record label, Right On Records, and released the album, *Valentine Heartache*.

According to critics, Ferrick's rise in popularity has been driven by her fans, reviews in independent and alternative presses and by word-of-mouth. Her songs are confessional and emotionally charged, exploring love, relationships, careers and social issues. She is known for her guitar-playing style, which includes rapid finger-picking and complicated riffs.

Ferrick plays both solo gigs in small-to-medium size venues as well as larger venues with a band. In 2007, she opened for the Indigo Girls and Ani DiFranco at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. She also released the album, *Live at Union Hall*, the same year. In 2008, Ferrick released her latest album, *Goodbye Youth*.

Students, faculty and staff can attend the concert for free with a valid ID; tickets for the public are \$10 and are currently available at The Garlic Press (108 W. North St., Normal), through the telephone request line at (309) 556-3815 and on the night of the show at the venue.

For additional information about the concert, visit the Blue Moon Coffeehouse Web site at <http://titan.iwu.edu/~bluemoon/>. For more information regarding Melissa Ferrick, visit her Web site at <http://www.myspace.com/rightonrecords>.

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