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March 17, 2000

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New Music Café at IWU to Present World Premieres

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—The "New Music Café," as part of the New Music Series 1999-2000 at Illinois Wesleyan University, will present two guest composers, Serra Miyeun Hwang and J-C. Kilbourne, in concert Tuesday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will also present music by two composers on the IWU faculty, including a setting of a poem by an IWU professor of English.

Free and open to the public, the concert will be held in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall, 303 E. University Ave., Bloomington. Prior to the performance of each piece, the composer of the music to be performed will discuss their music. A reception and informal discussion will follow.

Hwang, who received a doctorate in composition from the University of Michigan, is a visiting professor in music at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill. According to David Vayo, professor of composition and music theory at IWU, Hwang's music incorporates elements of Korean folk music. One of Hwang's compositions will feature guest performer Nathan Hesselink, a faculty member at Illinois State University, who will perform on the changgo, a traditional Korean drum. There will also be the world premiere of a composition for cello and percussion.

J-C. Kilbourne is a former visiting faculty member at IWU, who is completing his doctorate in composition at the University of Illinois, where he also holds a teaching assistantship. Nikki Carnevale, an IWU junior music education major from Elmhurst, Ill., will conduct the world premiere of Kilbourne's composition *Seductions* for four sopranos and four instruments.

Mario Pelusi, associate professor of composition and theory and director of the IWU School of Music, will conduct his piece *A Musical Narrative* for Chamber Ensemble. Vayo's *Porch Music*, a musical setting of a poem by Robert Bray, IWU's R. Forrest Colwell professor of English, will receive its world premiere. Commissioned by Bray as a high school graduation present for his daughter, the work will be performed by Vadim Mazo, associate professor of music (viola) and Alfred Hannon, an IWU senior music major (tenor) from Evanston, Ill.

Vayo started the New Music Café, a concert series of recent music from wide-ranging composers, in the early years of his career at IWU. "The exciting thing about these concerts," said Vayo, "is that the guest composers have a chance to interact with the IWU student and faculty performers as well as the public."

About Illinois Wesleyan University

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,070 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to

the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium. Construction is underway on a \$23 million library and \$6 million student center. Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine ranks Illinois Wesleyan University 12th among the nation's 1,600 private colleges in providing a top-quality education at an affordable cost. Also sharing IWU's rank are Princeton and Dartmouth.

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