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IWU Jazz Ensemble Records Swing Music CD

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Illinois Wesleyan University will be "jumpin'" next month, when a new CD of 1940s-era swing tunes is released, recorded by its Jazz Ensemble and featuring hits from Glenn Miller to Benny Goodman.

The recording by the 20-member student troupe is titled, "It's Swinging at IWU." The CD, which contains 14 pieces and runs about 45 minutes, costs \$10.99, plus \$4.50 shipping and handling. It will be available after May 1 through the IWU Bookstore, 1207 1/2 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61702-2900, or telephone: 309/556-3059.

Recording the CD, explained Tom Streeter, professor of music and the Jazz Ensemble's faculty leader, gave the students the opportunity to experience first hand what it's like to consistently perform at recording-industry standards.

"The CD," Streeter said, "is oriented toward the swing-era music of the 1940s and band leaders like Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman. Other bands represented on the CD are Stan Kenton, Duke Ellington, Bob Crosby, and Les Brown."

The IWU recording is just another example of swing music's resurgence.

"Youth are turned on to the joy of the music—it's happy music," Streeter said, referring to the growing popularity of swing music with contemporary listeners. "Swing music is upbeat and young people enjoy dancing to it."

Streeter and the Jazz Ensemble were urged to record the CD by IWU alumni who enjoyed the group's performances at an alumni dinner held in LaGrange, Ill., over the last two years.

Instrumentation for the CD includes five saxophonists, five trumpeters, five trombonists, a pianist, a bass player, a drummer, a vibes player, and two vocalists.

The CD contains these tunes and soloists:

- "Life Goes to a Party," the Benny Goodman-Harry James tune, with

Gene Reich, a freshman majoring in public accounting and computer science from Deerfield, Ill., playing the clarinet, and Amy McCabe, a junior majoring in educational studies from Bonfield, Ill., on the trumpet.

- "Somewhere Out There," arranged by Mike Crotty, with McCabe performing on the trumpet.
- "Bei Mir Bist Du Schon," the Sammy Cahn work, with Heather Kennel, a senior majoring in business administration and music from Arthur, Ill., as vocalist, Reich on clarinet, and Gary Bleck, a junior from Warren, Ill., performing on the tenor saxophone.
- "Intermission Riff" with Sean Parsons, a sophomore majoring in music from Peru, Ill., playing the piano, and Reich on the tenor saxophone.
- "South Rampart Street Parade" by Steve Allen, with Reich on the tenor saxophone.
- "Leap Frog," arranged by Joe Garland, with Reich on the tenor saxophone.
- "Chelsea Bridge," the Billy Strayhorn tune, arranged by Henry Mancini, with Guy Kelpin, a senior majoring in music from Waukesha, Wis., featured on the trombone, Andrew Stott, a junior majoring in computer science from LaGrange, Ill., on alto saxophone, and Parsons on piano.
- "I've Got You Under My Skin," arranged by Nelson Riddle for Frank Sinatra, with Mike Cavalieri, a senior music major from Oak Forest, Ill., singing, and Mark Thomson, a sophomore majoring in music from White Bear Lake, Minn., playing the trombone solo.
- "Peanut Vendor" with Kelpin playing the trombone, Parsons as pianist, and the Jazz Ensemble's trumpet section.
- "A String of Pearls" with Stott on alto saxophone, Reich on tenor saxophone, and Olivia Malin, a senior majoring in music from Burkittsville, Md., on trumpet.
- "Jump, Jive and Wail," a tune by Louis Prima, features Kennel and Cavalieri as vocalists, Reich on tenor saxophone, Parsons on the piano, and Malin on trumpet, and Thomson on trombone.
- "Moonlight Serenade," the trademark Glenn Miller tune, featuring the Jazz Ensemble's saxophone section.
- "Pennsylvania 6-5000," with Malin on trumpet and Reich on tenor saxophone.
- "Sing Sing Sing" (with a Swing), the Louis Prima work, featured by the Benny Goodman orchestra, with Dan Witte, a junior, majoring in music education from Niles, Ill., on drums.

The CD was recorded in three, two-hour sessions in IWU's Westbrook Auditorium, located in Presser Hall, which is home to the School of Music. The CD was recorded by Bloomington-based MediaPro Productions, Inc.

This is the first CD recorded by the Jazz Ensemble. However, the group has recorded several tapes over the years.

Streeter, an IWU faculty member for 28 years, received his bachelor's (1965) and master's degrees (1967) in music education from Indiana University, and a doctorate in musical arts from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. For four years, he was a bass trombonist with the U.S. Air Force's renowned band, the Airmen of Note, based at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C.

Among Streeter's teaching interests are the trombone, low brass, jazz history, and arranging pieces for the Jazz Ensemble. He also is interested in using computers to teach jazz history.

Streeter's interest in jazz goes back to a college roommate whose father was a jazz pianist. "My roommate," Streeter recalled, "had a lot of jazz LPs and we listened to them."

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 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.