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IWU Students Produce Christmas CD

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--The sounds of "Let it Snow," "Good King Wenceslas," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," once again ring through the minds of Illinois Wesleyan students and faculty as they produce, market and sell the third edition of a Christmas compact disc.

For the third year in a row, the IWU chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, a music fraternity for men, has sponsored production of A Musician's Christmas. Profits from the sale of the compact disc, which features 16 holiday songs and carols, are earmarked for local charities.

In the past, A Musician's Christmas has raised nearly \$7,000 for charity. The recipients of this year's funds will be The Pantagraph Good Fellow Fund and the Peoria Journal Star Red Stocking Fund.

The Pantagraph Good Fellow Fund every year helps approximately 2,100 children 12 years of age and under, who are in need, and provides blankets to approximately 2,200 residents of nursing homes and home-bound seniors.

The Peoria Journal Star Red Stocking Fund provides approximately 1,700 stockings filled with toys to area children, as well as approximately 4,500 food baskets to low-income families.

"A Musician's Christmas," said Clint W. Sabin, a senior public-relations major at IWU from Germantown Hills, Ill., and the project's coordinator for the CD, "is a chance for the university's talented musicians to share their gift with members of the community, celebrate the Christmas spirit and give money to local charities all at the same time."

The initial project was designed because, "We felt there wasn't enough Christmas music being recorded for the right reason, for the joy of the season," said Sabin. "With the wealth of musical talent at IWU, we didn't see why we couldn't put together such a project and then give the profits to charity."

This year's edition involves 75 students and faculty. Mario J. Pelusi, director of the IWU School of Music, noted that the CD is a very ambitious project that is completely organized by students. He said, "This special recording includes a marvelous variety of musical compositions, ensembles and styles that will appeal to people who like a lot of different kinds of music."

The 16 pieces range from classical harpsichord to female vocalists singing ancient Latin, a brass quintet, a percussion ensemble, various instrumental and vocal solos and a jazz combo. Two faculty members also perform on A Musician's Christmas: Hallie Coppedge, lecturer in music, and Minor Myers, jr., president of Illinois Wesleyan, who is a member of the fraternity.

Sean Parsons, a senior music performance major from Peru, Ill., has performed for all three editions of the CD. Parsons said, "It's really enjoyable to be able to share my music with others in such a unique way. The thought that I can be a part of so many families' holiday celebrations really means something. It's a lot different than just playing at a concert or recital, this music lives on in people's hearts."

Kevin Van Prooyen, a senior music-education major from LaGrange, Ill., who is the president of IWU's chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia said, "We're quite proud of this project. It's one of the few times the entire School of Music can be a part of the same endeavor. We're all students of music, and the opportunity to share our talent for such a great cause is an honor." He added, "The response from the past two years was so overwhelming, we just had to do it again."

A Musician's Christmas was recorded Oct. 4-7 in IWU's Evelyn Chapel, which is known for its first-class acoustics. Adam Gregoire, a sophomore business major from Kankakee, Ill., recorded the CD, and Roger Garrett, assistant professor of clarinet/music education and supervisor of the school's recording studio, edited the CD.

Selections from the third edition of A Musician's Christmas include:

1. Good King Wenceslas (trombone quintet)

- Christopher P. Davis, a freshman music-performance major from Harvey, Ill.
- Lee Price, a sophomore music-composition major from Minooka, Ill.
- Jennifer Tuttle, a junior music-education major from Mokena, Ill.
- Brian Wasik, a freshman biology major from Rolling Meadows, Ill.
- Shannon White, a freshman music major from Geneseo, Ill.

2. O Come, All Ye Faithful/Adeste Fideles (vocal solo)

- Alfred Alan Hannon (tenor), senior vocal-performance major from Evanston, Ill.
- Megan Richards (piano), a senior music-education major from Naperville, Ill.

3. Carol of the Bells (The IWU Percussion Ensemble)

- Brendan McCormick, a junior history major from Sycamore, Ill.
- Nikki Carnevale, a senior music-education major from Elmhurst, Ill.
- Katie Wehr, a freshman undeclared major from Grinnell, Iowa
- Michael Hart, a junior music-education major from Belvidere, Ill.
- Jimi Tarnowski, a junior music-performance major from Lostant, Ill.
- Eric Macaulay, a freshman physics major from Palatine, Ill.
- Directed by Shawn Neely, lecturer in music from Normal, Ill.

4. Noel by Claude d'Aquin (harpsichord solo)

- Minor Myers, jr., president of Illinois Wesleyan University

5. White Christmas (brass quintet)

- David Maday (trumpet), a senior music-education major from Arlington Heights, Ill.
- Brett Dean (trumpet), a sophomore music-education major from Beecher, Ill.
- Brad Taylor (french horn), a sophomore physics major from Sugar Land, Texas
- Lee Price (trombone), a sophomore music-composition major from Minooka, Ill.
- Christopher Davis (bass trombone), a freshman music-performance major from Harvey, Ill.

6. Laudamus Te from "Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi (vocal duet)

- Carrie Zimmerman (soprano), a senior music-education major from Rockford, Ill.
- Suzanne A. Shields (mezzo soprano), a senior vocal-performance major from Riverside, Ill.
- Matthew Schneider (piano), a junior music-education major from Peoria, Ill.

7. In the Bleak Midwinter (clarinet choir)

- Rachel Throckmorton, a senior music-education major from Petersburg, Ill.
- Erin O'Neil, a senior music-education major from Byron, Ill.
- Katie Pilson, a junior music-education major from Brookfield, Ill.
- Sarah Evans, a sophomore music major from Peru, Ill.
- Lianne Carr, a senior biology major from Champaign, Ill.
- Kim Workman, a sophomore music-education major from Freeport, Ill.
- Jen Marshall, a sophomore music-education major from Western Springs, Ill.
- Maury Beelman, a junior music-education major from Galesburg, Ill.
- Karen Zupec, a freshman music-education major from Waukegan, Ill.
- Arranged by Matt Croisant, a sophomore music-composition major from Champaign, Ill.

8. Up on the Housetop (jazz trio)

- Sean Parsons (piano), a senior music-composition major from Peru, Ill.
- Toby Curtright (string bass), a friend of the fraternity
- Brendan McCormick (drums), a junior history major from Sycamore, Ill.

9. Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow (vocal solo)

- Professor Hallie Coppedge (mezzo-soprano), lecturer in music at IWU from Heyworth, Ill.
- Alicia Levin (piano), a junior music-education major from Oshkosh, Wis.

10. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (bassoon solo)

- Ryan Caldwell (bassoon), a junior music major from Fulton, Mo.
- Kevin Van Prooyen (piano), a senior music major from Lombard, Ill.

11. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (piano solo)

- A.J. Robb, a sophomore music-composition major from Mount Prospect, Ill.

12. The Holly and the Ivy (string quartet)

- Corinn Brooks (violin), a junior music-education major from South Milwaukee, Wis.
- Tom Magarian (violin), a political science/music double major from Des Plaines, Ill.
- Deanna Herman (viola), a sophomore music-performance major from Waukegan, Ill.
- Lori Morgan (cello), a sophomore music-performance major from Chesterfield, Mo.

13. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (cello solo)

- April Guthrie (cello), sophomore music-performance major from Overland Park, Kan.
- Sarah Evans (piano), a sophomore music major from Peru, Ill.

14. Joy to the World (piccolo trumpet solo)

- David Maday (piccolo trumpet), a senior music-education major from Arlington Heights, Ill.
- Alicia Levin (piano) a junior music-performance major from Oshkosh, Wis.

15. Ding Dong, Merrily On High (flute trio)

- Danielle Lester, a senior Music/English double-major from Rockford, Ill.
- Kate Rogers, a sophomore music-education major from Antioch, Ill.
- Sarah Sipll, a senior music-education major from Plainfield, Ill.

16. We Wish You a Merry Christmas (vocal ensemble)

- Sinfonia Chapter Choir (all members of the sponsoring fraternity), Under the direction of Matt Schneider, a junior music-education major from Peoria, Ill.

Copies of A Musician's Christmas are \$10 each and are available at:

- Wonders of Wildlife Gallery and Framing, 4700 N. University St., Peoria, Ill. 61614, (309) 693-9453
- Dixon Fisheries, 1807 N. Main, East Peoria, Ill. 61611, (309) 694-6823
- Kidder Music, 7728 N. Crestline Dr., Peoria, Ill. 61615, (309) 692-4040
- The Music Shoppe, Inc., 126 E. Beaufort St., Normal, Ill. 61761, (309) 452-7436
- Horine's Pianos, 1336 E. Empire, Bloomington, Ill. 61701, (309) 663-7587
- IWU Bookstore, 1207 1/2 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701, (309) 556-3059

The CD also can be purchased through the mail by sending a check made payable to "Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia," 303 E. Chestnut St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701. Mark the envelope to the attention of "A Musician's Christmas" and add \$2 for the shipping of each copy.

Copies of last year's edition also can be purchased at the IWU Bookstore, or through the mail, for \$7 each.

About Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia is a national music fraternity. The fraternity was founded in 1898 at Boston's New England Conservatory. There are 208 chapters across the country. Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia's goals are to increase public awareness of music's important role in the enrichment of the human spirit, as well as promote advances in musical research, education, and performance.

The Alpha Lambda chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia was founded at IWU in 1924. The chapter also sponsors the commission of a composition for the IWU Wind Ensemble, which is scheduled to debut in the winter of 2002. The chapter provides numerous musicals and other music-related events throughout the school year including a newly designed "Faculty Listening Series"--non-music faculty play recordings of their favorite music and explain its importance to them on a personal level.

Members of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia include Samuel Barber, Duke Ellington, Andy Griffith, Luciano Pavarotti, Fred Rogers, Doc Severinson, and John Phillip Sousa.

About Illinois Wesleyan University

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls more than 2000 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 \$26 million library and a \$6 million student center.

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