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## Illinois Wesleyan University Chamber Singers In Concert

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## **Illinois Wesleyan University Chamber Singers In Concert**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--On Thursday, Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. in Evelyn Chapel, 1301 N. Park St., Bloomington, the Illinois Wesleyan University Chamber Singers will present a program of choral music by the eminent English composer Benjamin Britten. Britten (1913-1976), who started composing as a child, is best known for using themes from American, Japanese and British cultures. Several of his works often are performed during the holiday season.

The program will feature three accompanied works: *Festival Te Deum*, *A Ceremony of Carols*, and *Rejoice in the Lamb*. Open to the public free of charge, the concert will be conducted by J. Scott Ferguson, associate professor of music and director of choral activities at IWU.

Ferguson has invited two IWU alumni to perform with the Chamber Singers--organist Doris Simpson Hill, class of 1958, and harpist Ted Nicholson, classes of 1993 and 1996. Hill, organist at Second Presbyterian Church in Bloomington, will accompany the *Festival Te Deum* and *Rejoice in the Lamb* and Nicholson, a doctoral student in music at Ball State University, will perform the Christmas classic *A Ceremony of Carols*, which will be sung in the original version for treble voices.

### **About Doris Simpson Hill**

Organist Doris Simpson Hill, who resides in Normal, Ill., is a music teacher and composer. She received her bachelor and master's degrees from IWU. Since 1971, Hill has been the organist for Second Presbyterian Church, 313 N. East St., Bloomington, and also has served on the faculties at Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State University in Normal.

Hill has studied with Gerald Hamilton, Marilyn Keiser, Madame Durufle, Marie Louise Langlais and David Gehrenbeck, IWU professor emeritus of organ and sacred music. She has performed in numerous community recitals on piano, organ and harpsichord and was featured as both soloist and accompanist for choral tours throughout the midwest as well as England, Scotland and Wales.

In 1994, Hill was commissioned by Illinois Wesleyan to compose four choral compositions. These works were premiered at IWU's annual Christmas concert as well as performed on the Collegiate Choir's spring tour in March of 1995. In the summer of 1995, Hill also accompanied the Chapel Choir of Second Presbyterian Church on its European tour of Switzerland and Austria.

### **About Ted Nicholson**

According to Ted Nicholson, in rounding out his liberal-arts education as a junior business administration major at Illinois Wesleyan, he studied the harp with Martha Burwell, former

music instructor and associate director of IWU's piano preparatory department.

In 1993, Nicholson received a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration and music from IWU and in 1996, he received a Bachelor of Music degree in harp performance. Also, in 1996 Nicholson received a Master's degree in Musicology from Illinois State University. In 1999, he received a master's degree in harp performance from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Nicholson is a doctoral student at Ball State University with a primary focus on harp performance and a secondary focus in the area of piano pedagogy.

Nicholson also has studied harp with Alice Spero, University of Illinois, and at the Salzedo School in Camden, Maine, with the legendary Alice Chalifoux. He has participated in harp master classes with Sarah Bullen (Chicago Symphony), Maria Calvo-Manzano (Royal Conservatory, Madrid, Spain), Joan Holland (Interlochen), Judy Loman (Toronto Symphony).

For seven years, Nicholson performed as a pianist at Von Maur department store at the College Hills Mall in Bloomington/Normal, Ill. He is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Fraternity, the National Guild of Piano Teachers and maintains a studio of piano students in Muncie, Ind.

### **About Illinois Wesleyan University**

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls more than 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. Construction is underway on a \$26 million library and \$6 million student center.