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## Media Advisory

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Jan. 29, 2001

**Contact:** Kate Weber, 309/556-3181

## ***Media Advisory***

**Event:** Concert: Ella Jenkins

**Date:** Feb. 3 (Saturday)

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Location:** Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall, 303 E. University Ave., Bloomington

**Admission:** Free, open to the public

Due to seating limitations, tickets may be secured at the Main Desk of the IWU Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University Ave. prior to the event. Tickets also will be available at the door.

**Background:** The music and rhythms of music educator and children's performer Ella Jenkins literally have been heard around the globe for the last 40 years. She has sung for children on all seven continents and has appeared on such children's television programs as "The Totem Club," "The Me Too Show," "Look At Me," "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" and "Barney and Friends," all on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS). Since 1968 Jenkins also has been a regular performer at the widely known Ravinia Festival's "Young People's Programs" in Highland Park, Ill.

A self-taught musician, Jenkins encourages communication through music among children with a unique call-and-response technique in Spanish, Chinese, Hebrew, Korean, Swahili and other languages. Publicity material notes her "playful and captivating songs help children appreciate themselves and understand others."

Parenting magazine has said of Jenkins: "The simple but irresistible songs, poems, and mini-language lessons ... reflect the beauty and diversity of diverse cultures." Entertainment Weekly notes, "For Jenkins, what's essential is to help children find their natural rhythms."

A Smithsonian Folkways Artist, Jenkins' has released 30 albums including "You'll Sing a Song and I'll Sing a Song," recorded in 1966, which remains the best-selling record in the history of Folkways Records.

Jenkins received the Governor's Award of the Chicago Chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, Inc. in 1989. She also is the recipient of two 1991 Parents' Choice Awards for her recording "Come Dance by the Ocean" and for her video "Ella Jenkins Live at the Smithsonian." In 1996 she received the Zora Neale Hurston Award from the National Association of Black Storytellers for contributing to the preservation and continuance of African

American folklore and storytelling. In 1998 she was granted a Lifetime Achievement Award for children's music by the New York-based American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Award Foundation.

Jenkins' performance is sponsored by the IWU Office of Multi-cultural Affairs, Blooming Grove Academy, McLean County Local Inter-agency Counsel and McLean County Association for the Education of Young Children.

Parking is available behind the Methodist Conference Center at the corner of Park St. and University Ave.

**Contact:** For additional information, call the IWU Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs at (309) 556-3412.