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March 9, 2001

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IWU Collegiate Choir to Tour

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--On Tuesday, March 27, at 8 p.m., the Illinois Wesleyan University Collegiate Choir will conclude a seven-state tour with a home concert at St. John's Lutheran Church, 1617 E. Emerson St., Bloomington. Free and open to the public, the event will feature sacred choral art music from the Renaissance, Baroque and Contemporary periods.

Under the direction of J. Scott Ferguson, IWU associate professor of music and director of choral activities, the 40-voice Collegiate Choir will perform the works of Thomas Morley, Jan Sweelinck, J.S. Bach, Janos Vajda, John Paynter and Randall Thompson. Folk song arrangements from the British Isles by Ralph Vaughn Williams, as well as secular music from Eastern-European countries by Georgy Sviridov, Ivan Hrusovsky and Lajos Bardos also will be featured.

The IWU Collegiate Choir has established a long history of excellence through its on-campus performances, annual tours and recordings. The choir also sponsors the IWU Choral Commission Series, which in its 49-year history has added many significant works to choral repertoire and resulted in a number of important world premieres at IWU.

The IWU Collegiate Choir is comprised of student musicians representing the School of Music and other areas of the university. Members are chosen by audition and maintain a rigorous rehearsal schedule in preparation for the concert tour and other engagements throughout the academic school year.

"The chance to perform our concert program a number of times allows us to reach a level of understanding and depth of interpretation that isn't possible after one performance," said Ferguson.

The IWU Collegiate Choir has toured annually for the past 41 years. To avoid conflicts with students' schedules, the tour takes place over IWU's spring break.

Unless otherwise noted, all events will begin at 7:30 p.m. For additional information on the Collegiate Choir, contact the IWU School of Music at 309/556-3061. The IWU 2001 Collegiate Choir Tour schedule is:

- March 17 (Saturday), First Christian Church, 1101 E. Jefferson, South Bend, Ind.
- March 18 (Sunday), First United Methodist Church, 263 E. Mill St., Akron, Ohio
- March 19 (Monday), Grace Lutheran Church, 205 S. Garner St., State College, Pa.
- March 20 (Tuesday), Newtown Presbyterian Church, 25 North Chancellor St., Newton, Pa.
- March 22 (Thursday), First Presbyterian Church, 4602 Cary St. Rd., Richmond, Va.
- March 23 (Friday), First Presbyterian Church, 16 Broad Street Red., Charleston, W. Va.
- March 24 (Saturday), Central Christian Church, 516 Woodbine Dr., Lexington, Ky.

March 27 (Tuesday), St. John's Lutheran Church, 1617 E. Emerson St., Bloomington, Ill., 8 p.m.