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## **Musician Mike Rayburn to Perform at Illinois Wesleyan**

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## **Musician Mike Rayburn to Perform at Illinois Wesleyan**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. --Described by one college newspaper as the "consummate performer," musician Mike Rayburn will perform as part of Illinois Wesleyan's Underground series on Friday, October 12, at 8 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center's Main Lounge, 104 E. University St., Bloomington.

Likened to Sheryl Crow, the Wallflowers and Dave Matthews by Billboard Magazine, Rayburn performs 180 to 200 shows a year across the U.S. and Canada. Rayburn, who received a degree in classical guitar, has a musical style often compared to Michael Hedges, and a voice similar to Rod Stewart. He has released five CDs on his own Dry River Records label and has sold almost 17,000 units without the help of radio or national distribution.

For his latest CD, released in spring of 2000, Rayburn collaborated with producer/drummer Dave Huff, keyboardist Larry Hall, and flutist Chris West. Rayburn feels that this CD has "taken it over the top. This is the best and coolest record I've ever done--you could just listen to the grooves and love it...but if you dig into the lyrics there's a lot waiting for you." To promote the CD, Rayburn did a cross-country concert tour on bicycle. Starting in Los Angeles, Rayburn and his band rode across the entire country, along with a support vehicle, playing concerts at universities, clubs, high schools and theatres. They covered 4,000 miles and performed more than 75 concerts in four months.

Winner of numerous music awards including "America's Campus Entertainer of the Year," "Canada's Best Contemporary Music Act," and the National Association for Campus Activities "Coffee Entertainer of the Year," Rayburn also is recognized for his philanthropic endeavors along with musical talent. He received the "Harry Chapin Award for Contributions to Humanity" for his work with the world-hunger and child development organization, "Compassion International," and the "Kids on Stage" program.