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Famed Saxophonist Chris Vadala to Perform with Jazz Ensemble

January 15, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Famed saxophonist Chris Vadala will perform with the Illinois Wesleyan University Jazz Ensemble on Saturday, January 23 at 12:45 p.m. in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall (1210 N. Park St, Bloomington).

The performance, which is free and open to the public, is part of the daylong activities of the 2010 IWU Jazz Festival. Vadala, one of the country's foremost woodwind artists, is a guest clinician and soloist for the festival.

Vadala has performed or recorded with such greats as Dizzy Gillespie, Quincy Jones, B.B. King, Chick Corea, Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Placido Domingo, Sarah Vaughn, Natalie Cole, Herbie Hancock, Ray Charles, Henry Mancini, Doc Severinsen, Phil Woods, Joe Lovano and many others.

A long-standing artist with the internationally recognized Chuck Mangione Quartet, Vadala's performing credits with the group include work on five gold and two platinum albums, plus two Grammys, one Emmy, one Georgie (AGVA) and one Golden Globe Award.

Serving today as the director of jazz studies and saxophone professor at the University of Maryland, Vadala is a saxophone representative for the Selmer Company. He continues to travel worldwide, conducting and performing with student and professional jazz ensembles, symphonic bands and orchestras.

The IWU Jazz Festival, now marking its 35th anniversary, encourages junior high and high school jazz ensembles in a non-competitive festival. Clinics and performances will be held throughout the day for participants. Student performances will be held in Westbrook Auditorium and the Young Main Lounge of the Memorial Center (104 E. University St., Bloomington).

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