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Trombone Choir a Tribute to Retiring Professor

March 28, 2011

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – In what might be a scene from a famed Broadway musical, a choir of trombones will descend upon Illinois Wesleyan University this April for a performance that will round out a yearlong tribute to Professor of Music **Tom Streeter**.

Streeter, who founded the Illinois Wesleyan Jazz Program 40 years ago, plans to retire in May. Several activities throughout the year have celebrated his contributions to the University, with the final event being an all-trombone alumni choir concert slated for 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 15 at Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall (1210 N. Park St., Bloomington).

Deciding to feature trombones for the concert was an easy choice for Streeter. He has been playing the instrument for more than 50 years. "It's just such a wonderful sound," said Streeter. "There's nothing prettier than a bunch of trombones playing together. People might be surprised, because it's such a mellow and very pleasing sound."

Illinois Wesleyan University alumnus Dennis Bubert will be among those participating in the choir. The 1976 graduate has been a member of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra since 1981, and is also a visiting assistant professor of trombone and conducts the trombone choir at University of Texas at Arlington. "This is a great way to celebrate to celebrate Tom's career at Illinois Wesleyan," said Bubert. "You can learn to be a better trombone player anywhere, but a true success as a teacher is someone who helps make you a better person along the way."

Activities have been planned throughout the academic year to help celebrate the program and Streeter's love of jazz, especially trombone music: a **Jazz Band reunion** last year at Homecoming, a special performance by trombonist and composer Steve Wiest at the 36th annual Illinois **Wesleyan Jazz Festival**; and a Jazz Ensemble tour in March.

For further information on the anniversary celebration, contact the Illinois Wesleyan School of Music at (309) 556-3061.



Professor of Music Tom Streeter circa 1978.

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