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Foundation Grant to Support Summer Music Program

May 7, 2014

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— Illinois Wesleyan University's **Summer Music Program** has been awarded a grant from the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation to support a three-week chamber music camp experience in July for junior high and high school students.

Illinois Wesleyan's program provides a unique opportunity for students to receive intensive chamber music instruction, according to Lisa Nelson, executive director of the Summer Music Program (SMP). The camps typically draw nearly 100 students, who receive private lessons and ensemble coaching, open studio classes, master classes and electives in non-musical subjects including foreign language, physical activities and visual arts. Illinois Wesleyan faculty and guest artists provide the instruction.

The students perform in at least two free concerts open to the community. They also perform at locations such as Westminster Village, Luther Oaks and Evergreen Senior Living. Students will present a children's concert in July as well as a final concert at Illinois Wesleyan's Westbrook Auditorium.

Funding is provided through the Illinois Prairie Arts and Culture Endowed Fund and the Hilfinger Endowed Fund for the Performing Arts.

Nina Gordon, associate professor of cello and chamber music at Illinois Wesleyan, is the artistic director and founder of the Summer Music Program. Executive Director Lisa Nelson is also visiting assistant professor of viola, violin and string pedagogy and coordinator of the IWU String Preparatory Department.

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