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Rebecca Welzenbach
Illinois Wesleyan University

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IWU to Host "Weekend of Jazz"

March 28, 2006

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - The Illinois Wesleyan University School of Music Jazz Ensemble will present a concert honoring their graduating senior musicians this Friday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m. The Jazz Lab Band will also perform this weekend on Saturday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Both performances will take place in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall (1210 Park St., Bloomington) and are free and open to the public.

Under the direction of Thomas W. Streeter, professor of music and director of the jazz program at IWU, the Jazz Ensemble will perform the following pieces: George and Ira Gershwin's "Summertime" (arranged by Bill Potts for the Bill Potts Big Band), Sammy Nestico's "Tall Cotton," Fats Waller's "Honeysuckle Rose," Nobuo Oematso's "Temple of Friends" (arranged by IWU senior music education major Cory Nelson), Nestico's "Smack Dab in the Middle," Frank Foster's "Bass in Yo' Face," Oscar Peterson's "Hallelujah Time" (arranged by Nat Pierce for the Woody Herman Orchestra), Clarence Gaskill's and Jimmy McHugh's "I Can't Believe You're In Love" (arranged by Billy May), Chuck Mangione's "She's Gone," Dizzy Gillespie's "Tanga" and Cole Porter's "Love for Sale" (arranged by Pete Myers for the Buddy Rich Big Band).

The following IWU seniors will be featured throughout the concert: Phil Arquette, a science/music double major, on trombone; Phil Krawchuk, an orchestral instruments major, on bass; Cory Nelson on tenor and soprano saxophone; and Kevin Thommes, a music major, on flugelhorn.

Other featured musicians will include: Kyle Charles, a sophomore political science major, on tenor saxophone; Luke Gullickson, a junior music/history double major, on piano; Nate Hahn, a junior music major, on trombone; Kathryn Lachey, a junior vocal performance major, on vocals; Steph Lyon, a junior music education major, on drums; Ted Nichols, a sophomore business administration major, on trumpet and Yuka Okada, a first-year international business major, on alto saxophone.

On Saturday evening the Jazz Lab band will perform a variety of selections including "Our Bassist," "One Note Samba," "Orange Colored Sky," and "Willow Weep for Me."

Featured musicians will include Shannon Baumer, a junior biology major, on alto saxophone; Mandy Compton, a junior vocal performance major, on vocals; James Klopfleisch, a junior music composition/history double major, on bass; Paul Meiste, a junior music education major, on guitar and Gary Weisenberger, a first-year music education major, on tenor saxophone.

The IWU Jazz Ensemble has toured extensively throughout the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom and the Caribbean. Open to all IWU students by audition, the ensemble encourages liberal arts majors to practice and perform alongside their music major peers. The literature for the ensemble includes music from all big band styles, with an emphasis on the jazz "classics." The jazz lab band is open to any IWU student without audition.

For additional information, contact the Illinois Wesleyan School of Music Office at (309) 556-3061.

Contact: Rebecca Welzenbach or Kay Mitchell, (309) 556-3181