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IWU Music Fraternity Sings
National Anthem at Wrigley Field
May 1, 2006

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - The choir of Illinois Wesleyan University's Alpha Lambda chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (PMA) sang the national anthem at the Cubs game at Wrigley field on Monday, May 1.



Illinois Wesleyan's Phi Mu Alpha choir sang the national anthem at a Cubs game on May 1.

Founded in 1924, Illinois

Wesleyan's chapter of Phi Mu Alpha is a national men's music fraternity devoted to the support and advancement of music education. Wayne Messmer, class of 1972 and member of IWU's chapter of PMA, has sung the national anthem for Cubs home games since 1985 and for the three years prior to that Messmer sang the anthem for the White Sox. He also spent 13 seasons with the Chicago Blackhawks before becoming a founding partner and senior vice president of the Chicago Wolves Professional Hockey team.

PMA member Justin Barnish, a senior music education major from Downers Grove Grove, Ill., contacted Messmer about the possibility of the PMA choir performing at a Cubs game. After hearing a recording of the current PMA choir, Messmer said that they were the best sounding PMA choir he had heard and worked to find a date that would enable the whole choir to go perform.

"We're all very excited about the opportunity to represent our fraternity and our school," said Luke Gullickson, a junior music/history double major from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, before the performance. "Even the couple of Sox fans among us have been forced to admit that they are excited."

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