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## School of Music Professors to Perform Homage to Russian Composer

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## School of Music Professors to Perform Homage to Russian Composer

November 7, 2006

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Illinois Wesleyan University's School of Music will continue its celebration of symphonist Dmitri Shostakovich's 100th birthday with an "Homage to Shostakovich" concert on Sunday, Nov. 12 at 3 p.m. in the Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall (1210 N. Park St., Bloomington).

The concert will feature the *Sonatas for Violin Op. 134* and *Viola Op. 147 with Piano*, played by Vadim Mazo, associate professor of music on violin and viola and Kent Cook, associate professor of music on piano.

The event is free and open to the public.

A Leningrad native, Shostakovich spent his entire musical career within Russia's Communist System. Many of his operas received criticism from Soviet authorities and he received two official denunciations of his music in 1936 and 1948 and the periodic banning of his work. Still, Shostakovich was named the most popular Soviet composer of his generation, receiving a number of accolades and awards. Also, he wrote 36 film scores including those for prize-winning films such as *Encounter at the Elbe* and *The Fall of Berlin*.

Critics note that Shostakovich's music is quite distinctive in that it represents a synthesis of elements from different musical periods. Classical in structure, his music is also highly romantic yet will frequently use frivolity or a course, biting sarcasm to make its point. Shostakovich produced a wide variety of symphonies, concertos, chamber music pieces, ballets, operas, cantatas and oratorios in his lifetime.

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

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