



Winter 2-22-2007

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### **Recommended Citation**

Dubuque, Meg, "Mat Kearney to Perform at IWU" (2007). *News and Events*. 3185.  
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/3185>

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## Mat Kearney to Perform at IWU

February 22, 2007

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -Illinois Wesleyan University's Student Senate will sponsor a performance by Mat Kearney, acoustic guitarist and singer-songwriter, on Tuesday, March 6 at 7 p.m. in the Hansen Student Center (300 Beecher St., Bloomington). Earlier this month, Kearney opened for John Mayer at Bloomington's US Coliseum.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and children and free for IWU students, faculty and staff with I.D. Tickets for the public are available online at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com), and IWU tickets are available at the steps of the Bertholf Commons on campus (104 University St., Bloomington) beginning this Friday, Feb. 23.

Kearney, a native of Eugene, Ore., moved to Nashville the summer after his junior year of college at Chico State University (CSU) in California with his friend Bob Marvin. Traveling cross-country and sleeping in the back of their truck, Kearney and Marvin had to sleep in a parking lot until they found an apartment in Nashville. It was in this apartment, where Kearney says "the roof was caving in and mice were crawling all over," that he recorded the demos that eventually earned him a record deal.

Once in Nashville, Kearney waited to sign initial record deals until he felt his material was "at a higher level." So he worked odd jobs and began writing and singing, dedicating time every day and performing at songwriting nights to popular musical talents such as Nickel Creek and Duncan Sheik.

After four years, Kearney released his first self-financed album *Bullet*, which sold 40,000 copies through an independent label in Nashville. The response to his songwriting was instantaneous and led to his record deal with Aware/Columbia Records.

Kearney's major label debut, *Nothing Left to Lose*, references his journey to Nashville and his decision to try his hand in music. Kearney studied English literature at CSU and developed his skills as a painter, photographer and writer of poems and screenplays. It was these poems, blended with the musical influences of Miles Davis, Billie Holiday and James Brown, as well as hip-hop artists De La Soul, The Pharcyde and A Tribe Called Quest, that formed his first original songs.

For additional information, contact the Student Senate Entertainment Commission at (309) 556-1367 or visit <http://www.matkearney.com>.



Mat Kearney