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Jazz Ensemble to Perform Halloween Concert

October 23, 2007

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— Illinois Wesleyan's Jazz Ensemble will give a Halloween concert on Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall (1210 N. Park St., Bloomington).

The event is free and open to the public. Halfway through the concert, the student performers and their director will hold a Halloween costume contest. Audience members are welcome to participate.

Songs to be performed during the program will include "Front Burner" and "Ya Gotta Try" by Sammy Nestico, "Tears in Her Eyes" and "Home Again" by Mike Tomaro, "In a Mellow Tone" by Duke Ellington, and "Sing, Sing, Sing" by Louis Prima, along with several other compositions.

Illinois Wesleyan's Jazz Ensemble has performed in Disneyland, Disney World, Japan, England, Scotland, as well as other locations. Guest soloists have included Jamey Aebersold, Vince Mendoza, Ed Shaughnessy, and Steve Wiest.

Students from all academic fields are welcome to join. The focus of the ensemble is to prepare musicians for the jazz and commercial arena of the music industry, as well as give the students the skills necessary to conduct their own jazz ensemble.

Professor of Music Tom Streeter is director and creator of the Jazz Program at IWU and conductor of the Jazz Ensemble. He has been involved in jazz since his university days, performing in jazz ensembles in college and in the U.S. Air Force's jazz band "The Airmen of Note," stationed at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. He is also creator of the IWU Jazz Festival, which hosts 30 junior high schools and high schools each year. He describes the music the ensemble plays as familiar and energetic, saying, "The music that we're playing is music that people recognize; that people, if they could, would get up and dance to."

For additional information, contact the School of Music Office at (309) 556-3061 or Streeter at tstreet@iwu.edu.

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