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Locals Tour with Illinois Wesleyan Collegiate Choir

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. –The Illinois Wesleyan Collegiate Choir will present a concert at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22 at the Second Presbyterian Church (313 N. East St., Bloomington). The choir includes several local students, including:

Bloomington- Sophomore Shelby Jones, graduate of Normal Community High School

Sophomore Kate Rozycki, graduate of Lyons Township High School

McLean- Senior Leah Bauersfeld, graduate of Olympia High School

Normal- Senior Allison Crain, graduate of Normal Community West High School

Junior Ryan Woodall, graduate of University High School

Saybrook- Sophomore Marissa Jones, graduate of Ridgeview High School

Stanford- Sophomore Mark Koester, graduate of Olympia High School.

This home concert is the last performance in the choir's 2011 Spring Tour, which includes appearances in Springfield; Sun Prairie, Wisc.; East Lansing, Mich.; Toronto, Canada; Rochester, N.Y and Wooster, Ohio.

The Illinois Wesleyan University Collegiate Choir has established a long history of excellence through on-campus performances, annual tours and recordings. The choir also sponsors the IWU Choral Commission Series, which in its 60-year history has added many significant works to the choral repertoire.

The Collegiate Choir is composed of 49 voices representing the School of Music and other areas of the University. Student musicians in the choir are selected by audition and maintain a rigorous rehearsal schedule in preparation for the concert tour.

Under the direction of Professor J. Scott Ferguson, director of choral activities at IWU, the choir will perform pieces from the Renaissance and contemporary eras. The program will begin with three sacred compositions from the Renaissance by Orlando Gibbons, William Byrd and Peter Phillips.

Contrasting these sacred works will follow three Renaissance French chansons about love. The group will then present two works from the Romantic period: *Schaffe in mir, Gott, ein rein Herz*, O. 29, No. 2, by Johannes Brahms and *Ave verum corpus*, by Edvard Grieg. The first half of the program will conclude with the dramatic *Libera me*, by Lajos Bárdos.

The choir will begin the second half of the program with two classics of 20th century American choral composition: *Psalm 67*, by Charles Ives and *Alleluia*, by Randall Thompson. Other works to be performed include two contemporary American compositions: *The Stolen Child*, by Eric Whitacre and the world premiere of Steven Sametz's *Ras Gagan* (Divine Nectar), which was commissioned by the choir. The program will conclude with the joyful pieces *Alleluia*, by Zdeněk Lukáš and *Rytmus*, by Ivan Hrušovský.

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