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School of Music Ensembles to Perform Honegger's *King David*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – On Sunday, April 15, the Illinois Wesleyan School of Music will present a performance of *King David* by Arthur Honegger. The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place at 3 p.m. in Second Presbyterian Church (313 N. East St., Bloomington).

The concert will feature three of the University's ensembles – the Collegiate Choir, the University Choir and the Wind Ensemble. University Chaplain Elyse Nelson-Winger will serve as narrator and Associate Professor of Music Brian Russell will conduct the ensembles.

Composed in 1921, Honegger's work is categorized as an oratorio or dramatic psalm. The libretto was written by René Morax and chronicles the life of King David, from his life as a shepherd to his rise to power and finally to his death. Honegger was commissioned to write the music to accompany Morax's play, *Le Roi David*. Consisting of 27 movements, the piece was finished under a deadline of two months. Two years later, in 1923, Honegger combined the music and narrative, creating a "symphonic psalm," which will be performed on Sunday.

All ensembles consist of students from all years and majors. Professor of Music J. Scott Ferguson directs the Collegiate Choir; the University Choir works under the direction of Russell and Professor of Music Steven W. Eggleston is the director and creator of the Wind Ensemble.

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