



Fall 9-1-2004

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Recommended Citation

Boelter, Leslie, "Ari Hest Concert at Illinois Wesleyan" (2004). *News and Events*. 4975.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/4975>

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September 1, 2004

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Ari Hest Concert at Illinois Wesleyan

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Singer-songwriter Ari Hest, who has been raved about by critics across the country and who has been well received at Illinois Wesleyan University, will have his third concert at IWU on Friday, September 17, at 8:00 p.m. in The Hansen Student Center, 300 Beecher St., Bloomington.

The event is free and open to the public.

Hest has a new album out, called *Someone to Tell*, which premiered August 10 with Columbia Records and Red Ink. The 24-year-old Hest, who likes to label his music as alternative pop with jazz, rock and funk mixed in, also has a soulful, weathered voice, according to his critics, which brings power to his music. His diversity comes from his many inspirations, like legends such as Paul Simon, U2, Nirvana, The Police, Pearl Jam, Smashing Pumpkins, and others.

The energy that Hest brings to all of his albums, as fans are fond of saying, is even more evident when he steps on stage. “Music is a provider of a break from life, a way to escape, not only for the artist, but for the crowd as well,” says Hest, and he tries to bring his audience away with him.

Music seems to run in the family: Hest’s father is a college music professor and his mother is a professional singer. Hest started playing at a young age with one of his mother’s guitars, and began performing in high school. Over the past half decade, Hest has been building his fan-base through a unique combination of old-school essentials: hook filled, classically structured pop-rock songs, charismatic presence, natural talent, musical chops and determination, and a blue-collar work ethic that has kept him touring the country constantly for the past three years. As Rolling Stone.com says, Hest has “efficient, vivid songwriting and [a] rich, mature voice...Hest sounds like a man who has lived much longer than his 24 years.”