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IWU School of Music To Present In Concert Saxophonist John Sampen and Composer/Engineer Mark Bunce

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.-On Monday, Sept. 13 as part of its 2004-05 New Music Series, Illinois Wesleyan University's School of Music will present saxophonist John Sampen and composer/engineer Mark Bunce in concert. The concert, free and open to the public, will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Evelyn Chapel, 1301 N. Park St., Bloomington. A discussion with Sampen will follow the concert.

Sampen and Bunce are Bowling Green State University faculty artists who have traveled all over the world; offering master classes and concert presentations for the saxophone and electronic medium. Within the last three years, they have toured New England, North and South Carolina and the Pennsylvania/New York area. Other recent performances have included those in Europe, Canada, and Alaska as well as in many states throughout the Southwest and Midwest.

For their 2004 tour, Sampen and Bunce have designed a multi-disciplinary presentation that will be shown to the audience, which will feature projected visuals, interactive electronics and theatrical activities. Representative composers for the concert include John Cage, Luciano Berio, Marilyn Shrude, Rodney Waschka, James Mobberly, William Bolcom and Bunce. Four of the pieces to be presented were written for and premiered by Sampen.

The presentation will begin with "pre-concert" music by John Cage as the audience enters the performance hall. Special lighting effects will segue into Berio's virtuosic "Sequenza VIIb," which will be highlighted with a projection of the score. This will be followed by Shrude's "Visions in Metaphor," a work originally conceived for a soloist and a dancer. However, for this concert, it will be presented with visual projections of dancers as depicted by famous 20th century artists. Waschka's "Definitions Aria," featuring a humorous blending of electronic sounds, a live soprano saxophone performance, and spoken text based on the writings of Ambrose Bierce (who was known to be a cynical 19th century journalist and writer), will follow.

The program will also include Mobberly's energetic "Spontaneous Combustion," a theatrical "Short Lecture on the Saxophone," by Bolcom-a satire on the instrument and its infamous past. Within this piece, Sampen will intertwine humorous verbal anecdotes with quoted and original saxophone excerpts while visual overhead projections accent the "lecture." "Waterwings" for saxophone and interactive computer by Bunce will conclude the program.