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Kate Weber  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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**Contact:** Kate Weber, 309/556-3181

## ***New Music Café Performance*** **Part of IWU's New Music Series 2000-2001**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — The Illinois Wesleyan School of Music introduced their second year of celebrating 20th century music with the 2000-2001 New Music Series in September.

The series features student and faculty recitals; student, faculty and guest composers; ensemble performances and discussions throughout the school year. Thus far, the New Music Series has included a student composition recital, a faculty recital by Shawn Neely and a concert featuring the IWU Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Professor of Music Tom Streeter.

### **The New Music Café**

The first of two New Music Cafés, a segment of the New Music Series, this year will feature guest composers Christopher Arrell and Brian Ogle in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall, 303 E. University Ave., on Nov. 9 at 8 p.m. Several IWU students and faculty members will perform in the concert.

The New Music Series is coordinated by David Vayo, IWU professor of composition and theory. An accomplished composer, Vayo came to IWU in 1991 from Connecticut College in New London, Conn. For 13 consecutive years, he has received an award from the New York-based organization, American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) for his musical compositions. Vayo has also been awarded a \$38,000 fellowship from the New York City-based John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

"I am a firm believer in active collaboration between composers and performers," said Vayo. "I think the New Music Series helps to make that happen.

"So often classical music is stereotyped as being all about dead composers. The New Music Series, in addition to performing works by established composers, shows we are involved in doing more recent music as well," Vayo said.

Vayo met the two guest composers and heard their music at a composition festival earlier this year.

"I was impressed with their music and contacted them to see if we could make arrangements to have it performed here," said Vayo.

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### **About Christopher Arrell**

Arrell, a doctoral student and teaching assistant at Cornell University, has had his music performed at CalArts, the Aspen Festival of Music, the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Bowling Green New Music and Art Festival and the Pacific Contemporary Music Center. His piece entitled, "Reel," for tape, (Electroshock Records, ELCD 006) has aired in the United States, Canada, Argentina, Spain and Russia.

Arrell's composition entitled, "Phrase" will feature IWU sophomores Sarah Evans (Peru, Ill.), clarinet, and A.J. Robb (Mt. Prospect, Ill.), piano; freshman Ed Stevens (LaGrange, Ill.), cello and senior Marta Siaba (Chicago), violin and will be conducted by IWU conductor-in-residence, Sylvanus A. Tyler III. Tyler graduated from IWU in 1993.

"I've always felt a kinship with rain and the sea, having grown up in a small coastal town in southwestern Oregon," said Arrell. "Ithaca, where I now live, also has much rainfall, and a large body of water in Cayuga Lake, one of the five Finger Lakes.

"While sketching 'Phrase,' I became interested in creating a musical analogy to rain falling on Cayuga--the simultaneous stasis and action of water--by contrasting a fast surface texture with a slow moving harmonic background. This creates a type of musical paradox, especially manifest in the outer movements," Arrell said.

"The piece has meticulously beautiful texture. Arrell really knows the instruments and how to combine them into beautiful ways," Vayo said.

"I'm delighted to have 'Phrase' featured in the New Music Café, to meet and work with the performers and to share my music. The performers are, after all, the vital link between conception and perception, composer and audience," said Arrell. "And, while it is probable that contemporary concert music will never sell as well as say...The Hansons, the dedication and support musicians and music lovers show for venues such as the New Music Café assures that composition will remain a living art form."

### **About Brian Ogle**

Ogle has studied under composition instructors, Kamran Ince, Chen Yi, Zhou Long, Fred Fox and Eugene O'Brien. Recent commissions include "Tennessee Wildflowers" for saxophone quartet, "Six Sultry Peanuts" for solo clarinet, "Our Language" for antiphonal chorus, piano and percussion and "Memento Mori" for electronic tape and dance. Ogle has received the 1995 National Arts and Letters Chapter Career Award in Music, cum laude status in the 2000 Diana Barnhart American Song Competition and the 1998 Smit Composition Award. He has earned degrees from State University of New York College at Potsdam and Indiana University and is in the process of completing a D.M.A in Composition at the University of Memphis. He is a faculty member at Mississippi Valley State University.

Ogle's piece for French horn and piano is entitled "Long Rays of Sunset." It will be performed by Vayo, piano, and junior Betsy Frick (Cary, Ill.), French horn.

"Ogle's piece is a very celebratory, high energy piece. He makes the horn sing, laugh, growl and make all kinds of wonderful sounds," Vayo said.

### **Other Pieces**

Other performances will include a piece entitled, "Aria," by composer John Cage, which will be performed by IWU Lecturer in Music Robert Mangialardi. The piece can be performed with a composition entitled, "Fontana Mix," an electronic tape, however, Mangialardi will perform unaccompanied.

"Cage's 'Aria' is a very fascinating piece. It's unusual, not like a traditional aria," said Mangialardi. "The composer really takes a unique approach and leaves many aspects of the piece open to the discretion of the performer."

The New Music Café will also feature a movement from the sonata for solo cello by Hindemith performed by sophomore Lori Morgan (Chesterfield, Mo.) and a solo double bass performance by senior Grahm Czach (Hoffman Estates, Ill.).

In addition to the Ogle piece, Vayo will perform a "very concentrated but beautiful" composition entitled, "Three Tiny Bits" by Bun-Ching Lam.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the late composer Aaron Copland's birth, a chamber ensemble will perform Copland's "Quiet City." It will feature two IWU alumna Lisa Beninato Frey, class of 1996 on English horn and Gordon Bazsali, class of 1992 on trumpet. Members of the string section include junior Corinn Brooks (Milwaukee, Wisc.) and sophomores Annelisa Anderson (Minneapolis, Minn.), Tom Magarian (Des Plaines, Ill.) and Laurie Clark (Washington, Ill.), violin; sophomores Deanna Herman (Waukegan, Ill.) and Andrew Ladendorf (Arlington Heights, Ill.), viola; Lori Morgan, cello and senior Jeremy Nicholas (Lakewood, Col.), double bass. Copland received an honorary degree from IWU in 1958.

### **Remaining Performances**

The following is a list of the remaining performances scheduled under the New Music Series 2000-2001. All events will be held in Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall and are free and open to the public.

**Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m.**  
Jazz Lab Band

**Nov. 19, 3 p.m.**  
IWU Percussion Ensemble, Lecturer of Music Shawn Neely, director

Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.

Student Composition Recital

Jan. 16, 8 p.m.

Jazz Ensemble Tour Concert

Jan. 20, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

IWU Jazz Festival: Thirty junior and senior high school bands, with a performance by the IWU Jazz Ensemble at 1 p.m.

Feb. 20, 8 p.m.

Student Composition Recital

Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.

Symposium of Contemporary Music: Panel Discussion featuring guest composer William Bolcom and IWU faculty.

March 1, 8 p.m.

Symposium of Contemporary Music: Concert of music by guest composer William Bolcom and the winner of Illinois Wesleyan's High School Composers' Contest.

March 13, 8 p.m.

New Music Café: Featuring the premiere of Associate Professor of Composition and Theory and Director of the School of Music Mario J. Pelusi's *Invention for Chamber Orchestra: B-A-C-H Recalled*, conducted by the composer. Concert curated by Visiting Professor Serra Miyeun Hwang.

March 30, 7:30 p.m.

Jazz Ensemble, Professor of Music Tom Streeter, director

April 1, 3 p.m.

IWU Percussion Ensemble, Lecturer in Music Shawn Neely, director

April 7, 7:30 p.m.

Jazz Lab Band

April 19, 7:30 p.m.

Student Composition Recital