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IWU's New Music Series to Host Guest Performers

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IWU's New Music Series to Host Guest Performers

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University's School of Music will present musicians Mike Block and Yang Wei on Sunday, Feb. 22 at 5 p.m. in the Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall (1210 Park St., Bloomington). As part of the School of Music's "New Music Series," the recital will feature a wide range of musical interests from traditional Chinese music to Block's original compositions. The event is free and open to the public.

Block is a cellist and composer who crosses all genres of music including Celtic, rock and jazz. He has been a part of several musical groups, including Mark O'Connor's Appalachia Waltz Trio, the New York Arabic Orchestra and the Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York.

Wei is said to be one of the world's foremost performers of the pipa, a Chinese plucked-stringed instrument. He has performed at the Lincoln Center for Performing Arts in New York City, served as Artist In Residence at the Art Institute of Chicago, and commissioned new pieces on the pipa for leading Chinese composers.

Both Block and Wei are members of the Silk Road Project, an ensemble founded by cellist Yo-Yo Ma to encourage international musical collaborations.

For more information on this event or any of the "New Music Series" events, visit the School of Music's Web site at www2.iwu.edu/music/events/newmusic.shtml, or contact the School of Music at (309) 556-3061.