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Mater Dei High School Graduate a Featured Soloist in Illinois Wesleyan University's Concerto-Aria Concert

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Rebekah Gray of Aviston will be featured in the Henry Charles Memorial Concerto-Aria Concert, an annual showcase of Illinois Wesleyan University's finest student soloists.

The Illinois Wesleyan Civic Orchestra will present its Concerto-Aria Concert on Friday, Feb 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts, 110 E. Mulberry St., Bloomington. Gray is among five soloists chosen by audition to perform with the orchestra under the direction of Steven W. Eggleston, professor of music. She will perform Creston's "Concertino for Marimba."

Gray is a senior majoring in music education at Illinois Wesleyan University. While at the University, she has performed as a member of the Illinois Wesleyan Civic Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, Percussion Ensemble, New Music Series ensembles and the Heartland Philharmonic Orchestra.

A graduate of Mater Dei High School in Breese, Gray is also an alumnus of the 1999 Phantom Legion Drum and Bugle Corps, Rockford, and the 2003 Colts Drum and Bugle Corps, Dubuque, Iowa. She is currently student teaching at Normal Community West High School.

Gray has worked with students on many different levels as a member of the percussion staff for the Tri-Valley High School Marching Band, the Normal Community West High School Marching Band, the O'Fallon Township High School Marching Panthers, the Southern Illinois University Marching Salukis and the Colts Drum and Bugle Corps. In the fall, she plans to take an assistantship at Colorado State University, pursuing a master's degree in percussion performance.

The Concerto-Aria Concert is named in memory of the late Henry Charles, a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia national music fraternity. The Alpha Lambda chapter of Phi Mu Alpha, whose IWU chapter was founded in 1924, has been a contributing sponsor of the Concerto-Aria since 1979.

In addition to Gray, other soloists will be Robert Hopkins, a senior music performance major from Murphysboro; Kathleen Magill, a first-year biology and music performance double major from Oakbrook; Mark Portolese, a senior computer science and music performance double major from Green Oaks; and Diane Wuthrich, a junior music performance major from Morton.

Founded in 1850, Illinois Wesleyan enrolls about 2,000 undergraduates. In addition to the School of Music, the University comprises the College of Liberal Arts, with 17 academic departments, and the Schools of Art, Theatre Arts, and Nursing.