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Oldest U.S. College Choral Commission Series Brings It's Music to Anoka, Minn.

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March 8, 1995

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*Oldest U.S. College Choral Commission Series
Brings It's Music to Anoka, Minn.*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.-- The Illinois Wesleyan University Collegiate Choir will perform Monday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church located at 1601 4th Ave. South. The concert, *Mixed Sounds of the Mixed Chorus*, will include a movement from a recently commissioned choral work, "God With Us--Alleluia," by Doris Simpson Hill.

Hill, a 1958 IWU music education graduate, also earned a master's degree in music education from IWU in 1971. Hill was commissioned to write the piece by David Nott, professor of vocal music and Collegiate Choir director since 1964.

The choral commission series, Nott explained, "is the oldest college program of it's type in the country and is a unique feature of the School of Music."

IWU's Collegiate Choir has commissioned choral compositions since 1952. Hill's four-movement work is a landmark in the series since it's the first composed by a former Collegiate Choir member.

IWU's Commission Series is the subject of an article by David Rayl, associate professor of music and director of choral activities at the University of Missouri-Columbia, slated for publication in the April edition fo the American Choral Directors Association's, *Choral Journal*.

During the varied concert, the Collegiate Choir will perform selections for one, two and three seperate choirs; selections for treble and male voices, and accompanied and unaccompanied compositions--including selections by Dufay, Obrecht, Palestrina, Brahms, Gabrieli, Ives and Mathias.

The Collegiate Choir has performed before large and small audiences. Easter Sunday 1986 at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., drew more than 2,000 cadets and others to each service. However, a freak 1994 snowstorm in Houston resulted in an audience of fewer than 50 people at the largest Methodist church in the nation, while the choir counted 36-38 voices.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,800 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. In recent years, the university's endowment has grown to more than \$92 million; a \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$24 million science building will open in 1995. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 164 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *U.S. News* ranks IWU the second most efficient national liberal arts college--a key gauge of the campus' quality academic program and relatively reasonable cost. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition. IWU's 1994 freshman class scored an average of 27.9 on the ACT exam, compared to the national average of 20.7.

Editor's Note: For more information about the performance at Zion Lutheran Church, contact: Mark Madson at (612) 486-7125

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