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Acoustic Music Talent, Dar Williams, to Perform at IWU, April 8

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March 26, 1995

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Cent of Local

Blue Moon Coffeehouse

Acoustic Music Talent, Dar Williams, to Perform at IWU, April 8

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Dar Williams, a new talent in the acoustic music world with a three-octave voice, will take center stage at Illinois Wesleyan's Blue Moon Coffeehouse, April 8.

Williams' performance is at 8 p.m. in the Main Lounge of IWU's Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University, Bloomington.

All Blue Moon Coffeehouse shows are free and open to the public.

John Stifler, writing in the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, observed: "Pay attention to songwriter Dar Williams. Her tunes are full of snap and sharp edges, mixing politics and love without making either seem like a rehash. [Her songwriting] reveals a highly educated writer with a sense of history and a splendid voice."

Williams' debut CD, "The Honesty Room," was recorded and marketed on Williams' own label, Shoestring Sound, based in western Massachusetts.

Williams' was raised in New York's "deep" suburbs. An ankle injury cut short her participation in high school athletics, prompting her to audition for a role in the musical, "Godspell."

"Once I'd worn those lavender tights and rainbow shorts, there was no turning back," said Williams, referring to her first taste of theatre. "I became a theatre nerd. I started writing music and plays and by senior year I called myself a playwright."

She went to Connecticut's Wesleyan University, where she became an environmentalist Religion and Theatre major.

The summer after Williams' sophomore year was spent in Berkeley, Calif., where she played her first "open mike" at the Plough & Stars, writing her own music for the occasion.

After working as a stage manager for an opera company and studying with a voice teacher, Williams spent two years "cutting my teeth in Boston, the boot camp of folk."

The blue moon is the second full moon occurring in a month--a rare

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IWU Blue Moon Coffeehouse/2

and unusual phenomenon fraught with possibility and excitement. IWU's Blue Moon Coffeehouse brings to campus and the community a wide range of music and entertainment. Doors open at 7 p.m. and performances consist of two sets beginning at 8 p.m. Flavored coffees and light pastries are available, along with a varied menu of acoustic music, spanning traditional to contemporary folk music, with some reggae and salsa for spice.

Editor's Note: Dar Williams can be reached through Michaela O'Brien at Young/ Hunter, a publicity-management firm, 174 Littleton Rd., #116, Westford, Mass. 01886; telephone: 508/392-0242.