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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carrie Newcomer to Perform Newly Released Album at IWU

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Folk singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer will perform at Illinois Wesleyan University's Blue Moon Coffeehouse April 22, at 8 p.m. The free concert to be held in the Main Lounge of the Memorial Student Center is a familiar stop for Newcomer who has performed at IWU three other times in her career.

Newcomer is coming back to the Blue Moon for a special release performance of her new album *The Bird or the Wing*. The new album comes on the heels of last year's *Angel at My Shoulder*, which was Newcomer's Rounder/Philo Records debut. While her 1991 *Visions and Dreams*, an independent release on her own Windchime label, stands as the breakthrough of her solo work (after work on two records with the group Stone Soup), *Angel* put her on the national music front after selling 20,000 copies.

IWU Assistant Dean of Student Affairs--Residential Life and Blue Moon Coffeehouse coordinator Darcy Greder said, "Carrie Newcomer has a national reputation in the coffeehouse scene and has said IWU is one of her favorite places to play. A lot of people in the community and on campus are excited about her new album . . . this is going to be one of those concerts where people change their plans so they can attend."

"The Bird or the Wing is the most mature and focused work of Carrie Newcomer's career to date," according to Philo Records. "It is about love, commitment, family, growing older and gaining wisdom. In short, it's about life. And although the details are often specific--the midwestern waitress with 'too much eyeliner' in *Under Your Skin*, or the narrator with 'a dog and a daughter' on the infectious title track--emotions and ideas expressed are universal."

Wisdom is Watching addresses a very emotional social issue--abortion. Newcomer wrote the song after hearing a news story about Dr. David Gunn, the physician who was shot down last year in front of an abortion clinic in Pensacola, Fla. "I am shaken, it's crazy and absurd," she sings on her new album. "It comes down to what you love, not what you can hurt."

Newcomer is no soapbox guitar player, and she can discuss the politics of a problem by revealing the layers, rather than just making an indictment. "Once you step away from the anger, what's the solution?" she asks. "Is the core of the problem really in the abortion rights issue, or is it that women are not viewed as people who can make moral and spiritual choices for themselves? Is it an issue of religion, or an issue of power and control?"

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