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Laura Warren  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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Contact: Laura Warren (309)556-3181

## Newcomer Returns to Blue Moon Coffeehouse

Local  
Central IL

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Veteran singer/songwriter Carrie Newcomer will headline Illinois Wesleyan University's Blue Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday, Sept. 14, at 8 p.m. in the Main Lounge of the Memorial Student Center. Admission is free and open to the public.

"She's a vocalist that has an impressive range, fluidly moving from a caress to an indictment," the Indianapolis Star raves. "This woman who can growl or coo is a triple treat."

A perennial favorite and the first artist to perform at the coffeehouse five years ago, Newcomer makes her ninth Blue Moon appearance Saturday to support her latest CD, *My Father's Only Son*.

"Carrie Newcomer has a national reputation in the coffeehouse scene and has said IWU is one of her favorite places to play," said Darcy Greder, assistant dean of student affairs and coffeehouse coordinator.

Newcomer has built this reputation by playing alongside music stars Bonnie Raitt and Bruce Hornsby in such major venues as Carnegie Hall and Seattle Stadium. Newcomer also has performed at the well-respected Philadelphia Folk Festival and the Winnipeg Festival.

Though Newcomer has toured solo in the past, she will be joined in her Blue Moon performance by the newly formed Carrie Newcomer band. The group features Jason Wilber on lead guitar, lap-steel, mandolin and vocals; David Wierhake on accordion; Robert Meitus on guitar, mandolin and vocals; Jamey Reid on drums and percussion; and Jack Helsley on upright and electric bass.

Newcomer first gained attention and acclaim in the 80's with the folk group *Stone Soup*, which became an outlet for her original songs in the form of two albums, *Long Fields* and *October Nights*. But it was her solo debut, *Visions and Dreams*, in 1991 that dramatically introduced Newcomer as a poetic singer and songwriter.

In 1994, critics raved over Newcomer's next release, *An Angel at my Shoulder*; Rolling Stone deemed it "an album that impresses with the bite of her intelligence, the bluesy warmth of her voice and the support of musicians who give these confessions an edgy propulsion."

A native of Bloomington, Ind., Newcomer infuses her music with midwestern charm, along with the urban influences that come from living near Chicago. On top of her work as a musician, Newcomer also has been an artist, teacher, truckstop waitress, factory worker, and a volunteer in Costa Rica--all of which are experiences that have influenced her songwriting.

(more)

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"(Newcomer's songs) are direct and self-assured, yet warm and sensitive," said Philo/Rounder Records, Newcomer's recording company. "Her songs speak of love and loss, divorce and single parenting, touching on political and deeply spiritual issues."

The Blue Moon Coffeehouse brings to Illinois Wesleyan University community entertainment presented in a coffeehouse setting. All Blue Moon events are held in the Main Lounge of the Memorial Student Center and feature flavored coffees, herbal teas, and light pastries (for nominal costs), along with a varied program of acoustic performances that span traditional to contemporary folk music, with some reggae and salsa for spice.

Upcoming performers featured on this fall's Blue Moon menu include:

- Sept. 21--Trout Fishing in America, an "aggressive" folk-rock duo that has hooked audiences across the nation with their eclectic combination of folk, blues, rock, and reggae.

- Sept. 28--Irene Farrera, a Venezuelan singer-songwriter who combines the fierce passion and romantic tenderness of the Latin spirit, inspiring her audiences with a richly cultural musical performance.

- Oct. 4--Ann Reed, a guitar-playing veteran of the Blue Moon whose soft voice and astute vision reach beyond the surface into the real matters of the heart.

- Oct. 11--Patty Larkin, a highly acclaimed singer-songwriter whose acoustic guitar and first-rate ballads have earned her a reputation as one of the most original "new folk" artists.

- Oct. 17--Ani DiFranco, a bold and brash new alternative artist whose explosive guitar and stinging lyrics have been praised by critics nationwide, including Rolling Stone, MTV News, and the New York Times. Because of Ani's tremendous popularity, tickets will be needed for this event and are available through the Office of Residential Life, IWU at 309/556-3815.

- Nov. 2--Kristina Olsen, who returns to the Blue Moon with her steel-body guitar, adding meaningful lyrics to jazz-inspired sounds and her trademark bittersweet blues.

- Nov. 16--Pierce Pettis, a master of the guitar and harmonica, as well as a warm and resonant vocalist, whose powerful music has been featured on NPR, VH-1, and CBS News.

- Dec. 7--IWU alumni Al & Andi Tauber, who graduated in 1989 and 1988 respectively, are a warm and humorous duo who met soon after coming to IWU and later married. The Taubers' eclectic blend of acoustic, R&B, and occasional bad seventies pop songs have repeatedly charmed standing-room only audiences at the Blue Moon.