



Fall 9-19-1996

Farrera Brings Sweet Inspiration to Blue Moon

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Recommended Citation

Warren, Laura, "Farrera Brings Sweet Inspiration to Blue Moon" (1996). *News and Events*. 6681.

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Sept. 19, 1996

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Farrera Brings Sweet Inspiration to Blue Moon

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Imagine a voice as intoxicating as chocolate, and you'll come close to the rich, sultry tunes of Venezuelan singer/songwriter Irene Farrera.

Farrera will bring her spice and flavor to the Illinois Wesleyan University Blue Moon Coffeehouse, where she will perform on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 8 p.m. in the Main Lounge of Memorial Student Center. Admission is free and open to the public.

Known for her percussive rhythms and dynamic sound, Farrera captivates her audiences with the essence of the Latin spirit--a fierce passion combined with romantic tenderness.

"Farrera's rich, smoky voice coupled with an obvious passion makes her songs truly distinctive," raves the magazine *Cashbox*.

Farrera's repertoire, inspired by the rich culture of the South American continent, includes the contemporary sounds of Brazil and the Caribbean. Her powerful songs combine lyrics in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, including interpretations of songs by well-loved Latin American composers.

Farrera's self-produced album, *Irene*, marked her debut as a spirited, cultural performer. Farrera and her newly formed band, the Irene Farrera Tropical Band, produced her second album, *Walking in the Jungle*.

Farrera's most recent release, *Alma Latina* (Latin Soul), features her interpretations of great Latin American songwriters: Silvio Rodriguez (Cuba), Chabuca Granda (Peru), Violetta Parra (Chile), Ariel Ramirez (Argentina), Antonio Carlos Jobim (Brazil), and others. Accompanying Farrera's passionate vocals are virtuoso Peruvian guitarist Alfredo Muro and Venezuelan Jacqueline Rago on cuatro (a 4-string guitar), mandolin, and percussion.

Farrera's spirited music originates from the Latin American traditions in which she grew up--born and raised in Venezuela, Farrera began playing

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Farrera Performance/2

music at the age of nine, when her father gave her a cuatro for Christmas. As a child she recruited her brothers and sisters, forming her first band to entertain family and friends.

In the mid-1970's, Farrera studied English and architecture in New York. After returning to Venezuela for three years, she moved to Oregon at the age of 24 to concentrate on music. Since then, Farrera has been performing professionally for over 15 years, splitting her time between solo work and her band.

Whether playing at festivals, colleges, coffeehouses, or clubs, Farrera's musical message is very clear--her spirited performances support unity and understanding among all races and peoples of the world.

"Music is a celebration, and it should be fun," Farrera told the Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph. "Hopefully, the music comes together to touch people. I just try to play with sincerity and to bring this music to people who maybe have not had a chance to experience it before."

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,900 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$25 million science building opened in the fall of 1995. The \$4.6 million Center for Liberal Arts--a facility housing 60 faculty offices, six classrooms, and other facilities for social science, humanities business and economics, and interdisciplinary studies' faculty--is slated to open next August. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition.