



Winter 1-13-1997

Michael Kelsey Acoustic Guitarist to Launch Spring Semester Shows

Kim Field
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Field, Kim, "Michael Kelsey Acoustic Guitarist to Launch Spring Semester Shows" (1997).
News and Events. 6728.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6728>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

January 13, 1997

Contact: Kim Field, 309/556-3181

Michael Kelsey

Acoustic Guitarist to Launch Spring Semester Shows At Illinois Wesleyan's Blue Moon Coffeehouse

*local's
Cent K
Chicago*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Michael Kelsey--acoustic guitarist, record producer, and song writer--will perform at Illinois Wesleyan University this Friday.

Kelsey's show is at 8 p.m., Jan. 17, in the Main Lounge of IWU's Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University Ave., Bloomington. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Kelsey's performance is open to the public; there is no admission charge.

Kelsey is the first of nine headliners to take center stage at IWU's Blue Moon Coffeehouse for spring semester '97.

Kelsey, who also is a singer, uses a funky rhythmic style which he calls progressive aggressive.

One description of Kelsey's music pointed out: "He offers up a tasty smorgasbord of sound, sometimes electronically enhanced using technology to find new expressions to take the listener to another level. Each live performance brings out an enlightening new side to his compositions like the endless reflections of a prism."

Kelsey has been the opening act for the alternative band, Blind Melon. Kelsey and Blind Melon lead vocalist Shannon Hoon played together in a group called, Styff Kytten, in Lafayette, Ind., during the late 1980s.

According to his biography, Kelsey shifted from the electric to the acoustic guitar to take advantage of the broad variety of sounds, moods, and nuances available from the acoustic guitar to increase the dimensions of his music, adding rhythm always has been the driving force behind his compositions.

"The more and more I delve into the acoustic guitar and all of its possibilities," Kelsey explained, "the more I leave the technicalities behind."

Kelsey is known for putting a creative twist on signature songs associated with other artists, including Peter Gabriel's "Love to be Loved," Led Zeppelin's "Your Time is Gonna Come," Paul Simon's "Mother and Child Reunion," Stevie Wonder's "Superstitious," and the Rolling Stones' "Can't Always get What You Want."

(more)

Michael Kelsey to Perform at IWU's Blue Moon Coffeehouse/2

On his first recording, *Gruvency*, Kelsey offers an array of instrumentals and vocals.

Raised in Lafayette, Ind., Kelsey entered the music world through various bands from rock to country. He started his own studio, *Kelsey's Playground*, spending five years as a recording engineer and arranger.

Here are some reviews of Kelsey's music:

- Marc Allen, *Indianapolis Star*: "One of Indiana's best musicians."
- *Front Porch Music*: "Michael Kelsey is a phenomenon that has to be heard AND seen to be fully understood. Many of the selections he performs are his own compositions, and in addition, he's a fine singer."
- Chris Jones, Jones Management, Inc.: "Mike Kelsey treated audiences to his unique brand of new age music. He even captivated those who came to spend the night moshing to the sounds of Blind Melon. A true testament to the power of his music."

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 the 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, classification that places it among 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. New and World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive(+)" in its latest edition.