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## Noted Jazz Drummer, Harold Jones, To Perform At Illinois Wesleyan Jazz Festival, Jan. 25

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## **Noted Jazz Drummer, Harold Jones, To Perform At Illinois Wesleyan Jazz Festival, Jan. 25**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—He's on tour with Grammy Award-winning singer Natalie Cole, performing music made famous by her legendary father, Nat King Cole. He was a member of the first jazz band to perform at the White House. And, he's been part of four Grammy-winning albums in the last decade with jazz greats like B.B. King, Sarah Vaughn, and Count Basie.

Now, drummer Harold Jones will bring his music to Illinois Wesleyan University, Saturday, Jan. 25, for the annual Illinois Wesleyan University Jazz Festival.

Jones will perform at 12:45 p.m. with IWU's Jazz Ensemble in Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall, 303 E. University, Bloomington. He will perform music associated with jazz legend Count Basie with whom he worked for many years.

The IWU Jazz Festival, which runs from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., is expected to attract 30 high school bands from across Illinois, including Normal, Peoria, Belvidere, Sterling, Canton, and other communities. The bands will perform in Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall, and the Main Lounge of IWU's Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University Ave., Bloomington.

Jones' career in music began to take shape in high school in Richmond, Ind., where he was born in 1940. He played in his high school's orchestra and dance, pep, marching, and concert bands. He was directed toward a scholarship at the American Conservatory of Music by a high school teacher.

While in Chicago, Jones performed with various artists, such as Gene Ammons, Johnny Griffin, Herbie Hancock, Paul Winter, and Eddie Harris.

When Jones was with Harris' group, it recorded its first million seller jazz record.

As a musician with Winter's band, it was the first jazz band to perform at the White House in 1962 for President John F. Kennedy. Since then, Jones has performed three times for President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George Bush and twice for President Bill Clinton.

During Jones' tenure with the Count Basie Orchestra, he won the 1972 *Down Beat Magazine* International Jazz Critics' Poll.

When Jones isn't performing on the road, he frequently teaches drums at many leading universities such as the University of Illinois, Stanford University, and the American Conservatory of Music.

(more)

## IWU Jazz Festival/2

Over the last 10 years, Jones has participated in these Grammy Award-winning albums: "Warm Breeze" with Count Basie; "Gershwin Live" with Sarah Vaughn; "Live at the Apollo" with B.B. King; and "Unforgettable with Love" with Natalie Cole. Currently, Jones is on Cole's "Unforgettable Tour." He also performs on Cole's latest hit record, "Stardust."

Jones has performed with many jazz greats and other legendary performers, including Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Nancy Wilson, Carmen McRae, Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis, Jr., Benny Goodman, Roger Williams, Ray Charles, Oscar Peterson, Bing Crosby, Bill Cosby, Billy Eckstine, the Mills Brothers, Frank Sinatra, and Kay Starr. He also has played with many major orchestras, including the Boston Pops, Chicago Symphony, London Philharmonic, and the San Francisco Symphony.

Jones has performed on many record albums with Count Basie, Sarah Vaughn, Oscar Peterson, Benny Carter, Eddie Harris, Paul Winter, Marian McPartland, Natalie Cole, and others.

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, as well as a new \$6.5 million residence hall. 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.