



Winter 1-16-1997

Vance Gilbert Contemporary folk singer-songwriter returns to Blue Moon Coffeehous at IWU

Kim Field
Illinois Wesleyan University

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

Recommended Citation

Field, Kim, "Vance Gilbert Contemporary folk singer-songwriter returns to Blue Moon Coffeehous at IWU" (1997). *News and Events*. 6730.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6730>

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.

Jan. 16, 1997

Contact: Kim Field/(309)556-3181

Vance Gilbert

**Contemporary folk singer-songwriter returns to
Blue Moon Coffeehouse at IWU on January 24**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Vance Gilbert--a contemporary singer-songwriter will return to Illinois Wesleyan this spring after bringing down the house last year.

Gilbert will perform at the Blue Moon Coffeehouse at 8 p.m. on Jan. 24, in the Main Lounge of IWU's Memorial Center, 104 E. University, Bloomington, Ill. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. Gilbert's performance is open to the public; there is no admission charge.

According to the Philadelphia Inquirer; "Watching Vance live onstage is like witnessing a one-man 'Robin Williams, George Benson, Garrison Keillor, and Al Jarreau.'"

He has performed at venues across the country: Schuba's in Chicago, Bottom Line in New York City and Charles Playhouse in Boston.

Gilbert is known for his humorous material. It ranges from a black truck driver facing unspoken racism to the marriage of a nuclear scientist to a homemaker who becomes a peace protester.

Gilbert says he likes to be "hysterically funny one minute, then cut [audiences] with a song the next."

He has opened for a range of performers, including rhythm and blues artist Aretha Franklin and country music's Mary Chapin-Carpenter. Gilbert also has also shared the stage with Jay Leno and Bill Cosby.

His most recent compact disc, *Edgewise*, released in winter, 1994, made the new adult contemporary and other radio formats. It sold more than 10,000 copies in the first weeks after it was on sale.

Gilbert won the Great Woods Folk Festival Songwriter Contest in 1991 and was nominated for a Boston Music Award in 1992.

Raised in Philadelphia, Gilbert started hitting the club scene as a student. He supported himself through music and taught multicultural arts

(more)

IWU's Blue Moon Coffeehouse/2

in Boston public schools. Initially, jazz was Gilbert's first love, but that changed after he and some friends saw Shawn Colvin perform, triggering his shift to contemporary folk.

Gilbert said, "I saw the level of communication and rapport she achieved with the audience and said to myself that's what I want to do."

Here are some reviews of Gilbert's music:

--*Boston Herald*: "Gilbert's style is a rich mix of bounding, pliant vocals, thoughtful lyrics, comical hijinks and sophisticated guitar riffs."

--Craig Harris, *Boston Globe*: "The most unique voice in contemporary folk music belongs to Cambridge-based singer-songwriter Vance Gilbert."

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls 1,900 students in the 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 center opened in the fall of 1995. The new Center for the Arts--a facility housing about 60 faculty offices, six classrooms, and other facilities for the 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, classification that places it among 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News and World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive(+)" in its latest edition.