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## Czech Violinist, Pianist to Perform at Illinois Wesleyan

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April 1, 1997

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## **Czech Violinist, Pianist to Perform at Illinois Wesleyan**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Violinist Ivan Straus and pianist Radoslav Kvapil--both from the Czech Republic--will perform in recital at Illinois Wesleyan University, Thursday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall, 303 E. University, Bloomington.

Straus will perform as a guest soloist with IWU's Camerata, a chamber music ensemble, on Saturday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m., in Westbrook Auditorium.

The recital and Camerata concert are open to the public, free-of-charge.

Straus will participate in the 4th Annual Ameropa Musical Arts Festival in Prague, June 14-July 1, an event sponsored by IWU and the Czech Republic's Ministry of Education. Vadim Mazo, IWU associate professor of music, is artistic director for the Ameropa Music Festival.

### **Ivan Straus Profiled**

Straus is a professor at Prague's Academy of Performing Arts, a member of the academy's music faculty, and serves as vice-dean for foreign relations.

Straus, a member of the Czech Republic's National Academy of the Performing Arts, for a dozen years was a soloist with the Prague Symphony Orchestra and for 10 years was a member of the Czech trio.

Straus, an award-winning violinist, has received the Prize of the Czechoslovakian Critics and the Grand Prix Charles Cross.

Since 1979, Straus has been first violinist with the Suk Quartet. He is involved in radio programming and has won first prize in an international competition sponsored by Radio Brno for his dramatic play about the birth of Maurice Ravel's composition, "Bolero."

Straus is the author of numerous articles, frequently leads master classes at home and abroad, is a member of juries at various international music competitions, and often appears on television.

Straus studied at the Prague Conservatory of Music, the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, and the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow.

(more)

## **Straus-Kvapil/2**

He began his teaching career after completing his studies in Moscow.

### **Radoslav Kvapil Profiled**

International critics consider Radoslav Kvapil to be among the finest interpreters of Czech piano music.

In 1967-69, Kvapil recorded the complete piano works of famed Czech composer Antonin Dvorak. He also has recorded the complete piano works of Leos Janacek and other noted Czech composers.

Kvapil was born in Brno, Moravia, in 1934. He has given recitals in more than 20 countries, spanning North America to Japan. Kvapil has been a guest on more than 25 radio stations. He is the founder of the South Bohemian Music Festival.

In 1994, Kvapil was the guest artist/master teacher at the national convention of the Music Teachers National Association held in Washington, D.C.