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Aug. 26, 1997

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Fire, Fire!

Early Music Ensemble to Perform at IWU, Sept. 6

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--A 12-voice acappella musical ensemble will perform in concert, Sept. 6, at 7:30 p.m. in Evelyn Chapel, 1301 N. Park St., Bloomington.

The St. Louis-based Fire, Fire! was formed last year by Scott Schoonover, who attended IWU between 1990-92, majoring in piano performance. The group takes its name from an English madrigal by Thomas Morley, the ensemble's signature piece.

Fire, Fire! specializes in early music, ranging from before 1400 to the 1600s. Its repertoire includes traditional English, Spanish, and French works.

Fire, Fire! says it is known for "its purity of vocalism and lively interpretation of early sacred and secular works."

In its first season, the ensemble won a 1997 St. Louis Artists Presentation Society Award and will be presenting a special concert as part of that honor.

The voices of Fire, Fire! feature three sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses.

In addition to serving as musical director of Fire, Fire!, Schoonover is artistic director of the Union Avenue Opera Theatre in St. Louis. Now in its third season, the opera company has presented works such as "Yeoman of the Guard" by Gilbert and Sullivan, "Venus and Adonis" by John Blow, and "The Little Sweep" by Britten.

Schoonover also is staff accompanist at St. Louis University and the St. Louis Women's Chorale.

No tickets are required for Fire, Fire!'s IWU performance, which is open to the public, admission free.

For more information about Fire, Fire!, contact: Suzanne Lee, 314/367-6397. For ticket information and ensemble availability, contact: Kristina Nordhaus, 314/776-7678.