



Fall 9-5-1997

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Recommended Citation

Shaughnessy, Jennifer, "Newcomer to Kick Off Blue Moon Coffeehouse" (1997). *News and Events*. 6870.

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September 5, 1997

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Newcomer to Kick Off Blue Moon Coffeehouse

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Carrie Newcomer and her band will open Illinois Wesleyan University's 1997-98 Blue Moon Coffeehouse on September 6 at 8 p.m. The performance will take place in the Main Lounge of the Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University Ave. Admission is free and open to the public.

Newcomer, who has appeared several times at Illinois Wesleyan, has a national reputation for her performances alongside music stars like Bonnie Raitt and Bruce Hornsby in places such as New York's prestigious Carnegie Hall.

When reviewing her 1994 release, *An Angel at my Shoulder*, Rolling Stone deemed it "an album that impresses with the bite of her intelligence, the bluesy warmth of her voice and the support of musicians who give these confessions an edgy propulsion."

Newcomer, who has toured solo, will be joined by her band for their Blue Moon performance. The group features Jason Wilber on lead guitar, lap-steel, mandolin and vocals; David Wierhake on accordion; Robert Meitus on guitar, mandolin and vocals; Jamey Reid on drums and percussion; and Jack Helsley on upright and electric bass.

"Her songs are direct and self-assured, yet warm and sensitive," said Rounder/Philo Records, Newcomer's recording company. "Her songs speak of love and loss, divorce and single parenting, touching on political and deeply spiritual issues."

The Blue Moon fall concert line up includes:

*Sept. 27--**Michael Kelsey**, whose unique combination of sounds make him more like a three-piece band than a solo performer.

*Oct. 4--**Jon Carmen**, with his unassuming style and self-deprecating humor, he's a refreshing addition to the acoustic scene.

*Oct. 10--**Susan Werner**, with songs ranging from rock to folk to cabaret, but all show her mastery of detail that single her out on the acoustic scene.

*Oct. 24--**Sons of the Never Wrong**, a Chicago based acoustic trio with an uplifting effect. (opening act: illusionist Christopher Carter, a 1987 IWU graduate)

*Nov. 1--**Sonia Rutstein**, of "Disappear Fear," writes and performs via electric and acoustic guitars with an intensity that is sure to rock the house.

*Nov. 22--**Christine Lavin**, a highly acclaimed singer-songwriter who has become an extremely popular artist on the New England coffeehouse circuit. (opening act: Dee Carstensen)

*Dec. 5--**Eddie From Ohio**, a group that has instrumentation crossing the musical spectrum and a flair for cliché-free melodies.

The Blue Moon Coffeehouse brings to Illinois Wesleyan University community entertainment presented in a cafe setting. All concerts are held at 8 p.m. in the Main Lounge of the Memorial Student Center and feature flavored coffees, herbal teas, and light pastries (for nominal cost), along with various acoustic performances from traditional to contemporary folk music and rock.