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## Ellis Paul to Perform at IWU's Blue Moon Coffeehouse Feb. 28

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Award-winning singer/songwriter Ellis Paul makes his debut engagement as headliner at the next Blue Moon Coffeehouse at Illinois Wesleyan University.

The free concert, which is open to the public, will be at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28, in the Main Lounge of IWU's Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University St.

Paul, whose CDs have sold close to 50,000 copies to date and has solidified his reputation as one of the country's most promising songwriting and performing talents, is a six-time winner at the Boston Music Awards and is touring in support of his latest CD, "Carnival of Voices."

### About Ellis Paul

Ellis Paul was raised in Presque Isle, Maine, coming from a family whose past generations earned their living from potato farming. This background has greatly influenced his perception of the modern world in which he now travels. After attending Boston College on a track scholarship and graduating with a degree in English, Paul began playing his music at the various open mics and was soon selling out clubs on his own. He has since developed a strong national following by playing more than 200 shows a year, performing anywhere from major festivals to nightclubs and church basements. Recently he has performed at the Newport (R.I.) Folk Festival, Carnegie Hall, The Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame, The MIDEM Festival in France, South by Southwest and the Kerrville Folk Festivals in Texas and numerous other noteworthy venues across the country.

Paul has three recordings in distribution. The first is 1993's "**Say Something**" (Black Wolf/Eastern Front Records), produced by Bill Morrissey. After selling 25,000 records independently, Rounder Records signed Paul to a recording contract and licensed the second project, 1994's "**Stories**", which was produced by Duke Levine and features Jonatha Brooke of The Story, Johnnie Cunningham, Martin Sexton, and Patty Griffin. In 1996, "**A Carnival of Voices**" (Rounder/Philo) was released. Produced by Jerry Marotta, the recording features the all-star cast of Tony Levin, Bill Dillon, Duke Levine, Jennifer Kimball and Patty Griffin. The CD charted near the top of the highly-competitive national radio polls, including at No. 3 on the **College Music Journal's** alternative/adult alternative (AAA) chart and No. 4 on the **Gavin Report** AAA chart.

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Paul is a six-time winner at The Boston Music Awards, a 1994 winner of the prestigious Kerrville (Texas) New Folk Award, winner of the Acoustic Underground Competition and the recent subject of a review in **USA Today** tagging him as a "Best bet for stardom." Paul received SESAC's award for the "Highest Charting AAA Artist in 1996."

### **About The Blue Moon Coffeehouse**

The Blue Moon Coffeehouse has been bringing free acoustic music concerts to the campus of Illinois Wesleyan and the Bloomington-Normal, Ill., community since 1992. For more information, call the Blue Moon Concert Infoline at (309) 556-3815 and to join the mailing list or send a comment, e-mail address is [bluemoon@titan.iwu.edu](mailto:bluemoon@titan.iwu.edu).

Previous Blue Moon Coffeehouse performer have included Ani DiFranco, Carrie Newcomer, IWU graduates Al and Andi Tauber, and the Sons of the Never Wrong.

### **About Illinois Wesleyan University**

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. Since 1994, the following facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, and a \$5.1 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. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching rates Illinois Wesleyan a "Baccalaureate I" institution, a classification that places it among 159 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.