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## **Carrie Newcomer Returns to IWU's Blue Moon Coffeehouse April 18**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer makes a return engagement to headline the final Blue Moon Coffeehouse of the spring semester at Illinois Wesleyan University. The free concert, which is open to the public, will be at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, in the Main Lounge of IWU's Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University St.

Newcomer has thrilled Blue Moon audiences before with her dynamic performances and midwestern storytelling and humor.

### **About Carrie Newcomer**

One of the definitive voices of the heartland, musician/poet Carrie Newcomer reveals the intimate strength of her voice and character with her latest Philo Records release, "My True Name," the synthesis of her growth as a lyricist and musician. She asks poignant questions with a wry and worldly sense of humor while she soothes the ear of each listener with her intoxicatingly warm voice. It's a voice the Austin-American Statesman described as "...an instrument as dark, rich and luscious as Godiva chocolate."

Inspired by genre-crossing musicians such as Lyle Lovett and Alison Krauss, Newcomer has always combined elements of acoustic, pop, and country, yet plays with the heart and soul of a roots rocker.

Since her last release, "My Father's Only Son" (1996), Newcomer's critically-acclaimed career has leapt forward with a great increase in radio airplay, press coverage, and record sales. Quietly burning up the road for years, creating a solid fan base all over the country, Newcomer has truly come into her own. In 1997, she captivated audiences touring as the opening performer for Alison Krauss & Union Station's European/U.S. tours. Accompanied by the Carrie Newcomer Band, she also completed her own tours of Europe, Alaska, Canada, and most of the 50 states. She's played a lot of bars and bowling alleys, but has since arrived at Carnegie Hall and London's Royal Festival Theater.

On her own independent label, Windchime Records, Newcomer released two recordings with the acoustic trio Stone Soup and her first solo album "Visions and Dreams" (1991). As she toured the country in her Toyota station wagon (which she retired at 220,000 miles) selling large

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quantities of her independent albums, she caught the attention of Rounder Records, who subsequently released "An Angel at My Shoulder" (1994), "The Bird or the Wing" (1995), and a reissue of "Visions and Dreams" (1995) on their Philo label.

No matter if she's sleeping in a hotel room or on a bus, she hasn't lost touch with the roots of where she's from or who she is. Newcomer was raised in Elkhart, Ind., in Amish farm country. As the daughter of an Indiana farm family and a first-generation Italian immigrant family, she refers to herself as "your basic Italian-Amish person," and claims to be able to make both a mean pasta sauce and shoofly pie.

As a teen, she taught herself to play guitar on her sister's guitar, then she lied about her age in high school to be able to play her first gigs in Michigan bars. After working her way through college she taught school in Costa Rica through a volunteer Peace Corps project. She's been a single mother, an artist, a truck-stop waitress, she ran her own record company, and temporarily painted tacky pictures on vans. She's a voracious reader and says, "Good writing comes from dedicated reading."

When she's not on the road, Newcomer lives in Bloomington, Ind., where she has a house in the woods with her daughter, husband, and two shaggy mutt dogs.

### **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.