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## **Illinois Wesleyan University Names New School of Music Director**

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Bloomington, Ill.--Mario J. Pelusi was named Illinois Wesleyan University's new director of the School of Music today.

Pelusi, whose appointment is effective August 1, 1998, replaces Robert Kvam, who recently assumed the duties of director of the School of Music at Ball State University, Muncie, Ind. Since Kvam's departure, C. Lawrence Campbell, professor of piano, has been acting director of the IWU School of Music.

"Speaking on behalf of my colleagues," said Campbell, "I must say that we are thrilled that Dr. Pelusi has accepted this appointment. He will bring to this position a sense of vision that promises to bring the School of Music and the entire campus together in bold new ways."

Pelusi, former chair of the Music Department at The Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, N.J., is a composer, theorist, conductor, and pianist. He holds four degrees in music: the B.M. and M.M. degrees in composition from the University of Southern California (U.S.C.), and M.F.A. and Ph.D. degrees in composition from Princeton University, where he studied with Milton Babbitt and Edward T. Cone.

Of the appointment as director of the School of Music, Pelusi said, "I am extremely delighted to be selected the next director. It is an honor to have the opportunity to join the Illinois Wesleyan University faculty and to serve the School of Music and the university as we continue to build upon an illustrious past and create new and exciting ways to further explore a variety of contemporary opportunities and to contribute significantly to the development of future ones as well. Also, my family and I are looking forward to becoming members of this very special community."

Pelusi has been a teacher for twenty-two years and has taught many subjects including composition, theory, harmony, analysis, aural skills, keyboard harmony, counterpoint, orchestration, film composition, electronic music, history surveys, jazz, and contemporary music, and he has held

faculty positions at a great variety of institutions including The Lawrenceville School and the Klingenstein Center at Teachers College at Columbia University, for which he taught and developed a curriculum for an arts discipline group.

At Ohio State University, Pelusi was assistant professor of music and director of the O.S.U. Contemporary Music Ensemble, and at Reed College he was assistant professor of music and chair of the Music Department, where he conducted a chorus and chamber orchestra. At the Westminster Choir College, Pelusi was instructor in piano, and at U.S.C., instructor of theory and composition.

A prolific composer, Pelusi has written numerous commissioned chamber and orchestral works, including *A Musical Narrative for String Quartet* for the Colorado Quartet, *A Musical Narrative for French Horn, Viola, and Chamber Ensemble* for the Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra of Columbus, which was also performed by the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble and broadcast on National Public Radio. Earlier in his career, in the 1970s, he scored music for films and television programs, arranged music for jazz ensembles, and performed as a jazz pianist.

Pelusi has also conducted numerous student and professional ensembles in performances of standard repertoire and in premieres of works by contemporary composers.

In regard to administrative philosophy, Pelusi believes that teamwork is important. "It is most important to recognize the individual talents within a department, particularly within arts departments since artists must work individually and collaboratively," he says. "Academic departments are strengthened when unique talents and abilities are engaged in the pursuit of common goals."

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

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social science, humanities, business and economics, and interdisciplinary studies' facility. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to 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.