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Ann Reed Returns to Perform at IWU's Blue Moon Coffeehouse Jan. 30

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Minneapolis singer, songwriter and 12-string guitarist Ann Reed returns for her third Blue Moon Coffeehouse appearance on Saturday, Jan. 30 at Illinois Wesleyan University. The free concert, which is open to the public, will be at 8 p.m. in the Main Lounge of IWU's Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University St.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and flavored coffees and light pastries will be available.

Reed, who performed at the Blue Moon Coffeehouse in February 1995 and again in October 1996, is substituting for Willie Porter, who had originally been scheduled to perform in the Jan. 30 show.

About Ann Reed

Reed, who was raised in Minnetonka, Minn., knew exactly what she wanted to do when she grew up from the age of three. By 1969 she had an interest in poetry that eventually evolved into songwriting. Had she only been a better clarinetist, her skill and talent as a 12-string guitarist and singer might not have been discovered.

Beginning in 1980 with the release of Reed's first recording, "Carpe Diem," it's been a roller coaster ride of spills and thrills in the music industry where, to quote Bonnie Raitt, "they eat the young." There's much you can say about an independent recording artist who has released 10 commercial recordings over 15 years. After "shopping" for the elusive "major label" deal, Reed decided she wasn't the kind of songwriter who felt comfortable with the demands of that world - demands like giving up copyrights to her more than 200 songs, opening for inappropriate "stars," dying her hair blonde, and basically dancing to their tune. So, after saying "no thanks," she formed her own corporation, A Major Label.

As A Major Label recording artist, Reed has won every major Minnesota Music Academy honor including Artist of the Year (besting other nominees Prince, Peter Himmelman, Greg Brown, and Bob Mould). She has also received Billboard Magazine International Songwriting Certificates of Achievement; NARAS & NAIRD Songwriters Awards; the Lake Conference Alumni of the Year Award; a National Parks Writers In Residency grant, and was named performer of the year, Great Traditional Festival.

- ✓ Reed has made two guest appearances on ABC's Good Morning America.
- ✓ She has been a guest on Garrison Keillor's "Prairie Home Companion Radio Show," Mountain Stage Radio Show and "All Things Considered."
- ✓ She's entertained at major folk festivals including Bumbershoot, Winnipeg Folk Fest (twice), Black Mountain Folk Fest, National Women's Music Fest, and was the headline entertainer for the Great Traditional River Fest in LaCrosse, Wis.
- ✓ Reed's songs have been recorded by many other artists including Bill Stains, Garrison Keillor and many choruses and choirs often use her arrangements.
- ✓ Her annual touring schedule consistently includes at least 100 concerts and appearances from Alaska to Australia.
- ✓ Twenty-five percent of Ann's touring schedule is set aside to benefit organizations that support women and children's' issues - she has been actively involved in raising money and awareness for Take Back The Night, The National Breast Cancer Coalition, Action Against Domestic Violence, AIDS research, and No Nuclear Dumping On The Mississippi (with Bonnie Raitt) - just to name a few.
- ✓ Her commitment to volunteerism and the universal appeal of her music, led Reed to be named as the "musical ambassador" for the 30th anniversary of VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America). In that capacity she has performed on stage for President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

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.

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.