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Dr. R. Bedford Watkins will Launch Brief Concert Tour with Faculty Recital

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 14, 1982 jb

BLOOMINGTON, ILL.--Dr. R. Bedford Watkins, Fern Rosetta Sherff Professor of Piano at Illinois Wesleyan University, will launch a brief concert tour with his faculty recital at 8 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19, in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall.

The program will be open free to the public.

He also will perform Sept. 23 at Springfield (Ill.) College; Sept. 26 at Fontbonne College, St. Louis; Sept. 27 at Arkansas College, Batesville, Ark.; Sept. 28 at Delta State University, Cleveland, Miss.; and Oct. 1 at Rend Lake College, Ina, Ill.

In addition to solo performances, Watkins will lecture and perform with small ensembles at some of the colleges.

The opening composition of the program, "A Sad Pavan for These Distracted Tymes," though written in the middle of the 17th century by Thomas Tomkins, may well apply to the present.

Watkins also will play two melodies from the Fitzwilliam Virginal Book, 1619--"Wakins Ale" composer unknown, and "Loth to Depart" by Giles Farnaby; three sonatas by the 18th century composer Padre Antonio Soler; Francois Couperin's "Huitieme Ordre;" and Johann Sebastian Bach's "Partita in E Minor, B.W.V. 830."

The program finale will be two of four songs Watkins wrote in 1980 during a sabbatical leave in Spain. The four, known as "Canciones de Calpe," were part of a master's degree performance at Southern Methodist University by Joan Schuitema, IWU '77.

A member of the Wesleyan faculty since 1956, Watkins was named to his present professorial chair in 1980. He was the 1976 Century Club Honoree.

Last February, he was one of three harpsichordists who were featured soloists with the Bloomington-Normal Symphony.