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## Immediate Release : David Gehrenbeck Will Play Free Public Dedicatory Organ Recital

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# Illinois Wesleyan University



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*Gehrenbeck  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nov. 12, 1984

BLOOMINGTON, ILL.--Dr. David Gehrenbeck, associate professor of organ and sacred music at Illinois Wesleyan University, will play the free public Dedicatory Organ Recital at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, in Evelyn Chapel.

The two-manual 29 and one half rank Evelyn Chapel organ was designed and crafted by Casavant Freres, Limitee, of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec. The specifications were developed by M. Jean-Louis Coignet of Paris, tonal director for the builder, in collaboration with Carroll Hanson, district representative, and Gehrenbeck.

The instrument, Opus 3577, was installed in May and June by Hanson and Eldon Pretz, also from Casavant assisted by several Wesleyan students, and the tonal finishing was completed in late summer by Gaetan Robert and Roger Chicoine, Casavant voicers.

According to Gehrenbeck, there are 1,638 pipes which range in "speaking lengths" from 16 feet to three-quarters of an inch.

Following a short service of dedication, the recital will open on a rather patriotic note as Gehrenbeck will play "Variations on America" by Charles Wesley, Jr., a nephew of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism.

This will be followed by two of the earliest extant organ works--"Estampie," composer unknown, and "Trio on 'Da Pacem, Domine'" ("Grant us peace, O Lord") by Arnolt Schlick. The first half of the program also will include two 20th-century trumpet tunes by Karam and Bingham, and two chorale preludes and "Fantasia and Fugue in G minor, BWV 542" by Johann Sebastian Bach.

The second portion of the program will open with "Three Versets for Evelyn Chapel," written by Dale Thomas Rogers, 1974 honor graduate of Illinois Wesleyan and student of Lillian Mecherle McCord, professor emerita, and Gehrenbeck.

The versets will be performed in conjunction with the congregational singing of the Evelyn Chapel hymntune, "On This Day of Dedication," written by Dr. R. Bedford Watkins,

Fern Rosetta Sherff Professor of Piano. The hymn was first performed in May at the Consecration Service, the first of a series of dedication programs which will conclude Dec. 23 with a United Methodist Bicentennial Christmas Service to commemorate the founding of the Church in America at the Christmas Conference in 1784.

The program will conclude with compositions by Charles-Marie Widor and Searle Wright.

Gehrenbeck will be assisted by a seven-member Brass and Percussion Ensemble and the 33-voice Chapel Choir. The choir will be directed by Dr. David Nott, director of choral activities and professor of voice.

Gehrenbeck has been a church organist since the age of 15. He completed his Doctor of Sacred Music degree in 1971 at Union Theological Seminary, N.Y. He and his wife, Helen, personally presented a copy of his dissertation to Pope Paul VI at the Vatican. He graduated in 1953 from Macalester College, St. Paul, Minn., with a double major in journalism and music.

Gehrenbeck came to Illinois Wesleyan in 1971 and has been organist and choirmaster at First United Methodist Church of Normal since 1973.