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Blue Moon Coffeehouse to Host a Night of Political Songwriters

May 13, 2005

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - The Illinois Wesleyan Blue Moon Coffeehouse will host a Night of Political Songwriters on May 21 in Memorial Center's Main Lounge (104 University St., Bloomington). The show is free and open to the public, with doors opening at 7:30 p.m. and the performance starting at 8 p.m.

Performers will include Mustard's Retreat, SONiA, and Caroline Aiken. They will present songs of political and social insight. These contemporary songwriters will provide a window into the challenges and triumphs of our world today by keeping alive the music of Phil Ochs and Bob Dylan, and also performing original pieces.

Mustard's Retreat, out of Ann Arbor, Mich., is a group of two men who met in college and have continued playing together since. According to Mustard's Retreat, the group plays "traditional music" that goes back to their "common roots." It "speaks to people's hearts and lives and binds them together as an audience."

SONiA, a world renowned singer-songwriter and activist from Baltimore, Md., has been keeping the music and spirit of Phil Ochs alive through her own interpretation of his works, along with original music that reflects the issues and hopes for our time. SONiA has been a hit at IWU in the past, and returns this year with even more for the audience. In 2001, SONiA's first live album received glowing reviews from Billboard Magazine.

Caroline Aiken of Atlanta, Ga., brings bluesy vocals and a masterful guitar to the show. She was featured in the *Atlanta Magazine* as the "best acoustic act," recognized with such Georgia luminaries as Black Crowes, Outkast, Curtis Mayfield, Gladys Knight, India Arie, and the Indigo Girls. She is a mother and teacher who still finds time to speak her mind, having been inspired early in her life to sing and speak out. Aiken has traveled across the globe, and the coming year will include a new CD, two European tours, and a USA perpetual tour.

For more information, contact the Blue Moon Coffeehouse at <http://titan.iwu.edu/~bluemoon>, or call (309) 556-3815.

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