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A NOVITAS Records CD IWU's Roger Garrett Debuts "Extended Clarinets!"

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Roger Garrett, professor of clarinet and music education at Illinois Wesleyan University, has the opportunity to toot his own horn on his newly released compact disc "Extended Clarinets!"

"Extended Clarinets!" is produced and co-engineered by Garrett on IWU's music label, NOVITAS Records, and features him on basset horn, bass clarinet and contra alto clarinet. NOVITAS Records was co-founded by IWU President Minor Myers, jr., several years ago in recognition of the many talented people at the university whose musical works are worthy of recording.

Clarinets, basset horns, bass clarinets and a contrabass clarinet are part of the CD's lineament. Garrett said throughout the pieces, the instruments get longer and louder and at times even lower, so "it's kind of a twist on the instrument and it just seemed interesting to call the recording, "Extended Clarinets!"

"It is not a vanity CD," said Garrett, "it's a CD that involves some of the best professionals in America."

Featured on the CD are: Grammy Award-winning clarinetist John Bruce Yeh, who has been a member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since 1977, and a selection of other well-known clarinetists: Yoshinori Nakao, clarinetist (Oregon Symphony Orchestra); J. Lawrie Bloom, bass clarinetist (Chicago Symphony Orchestra); Todd Kuhns, basset horn, bass clarinetist (Oregon Symphony Orchestra); Mike Anderson, basset horn, clarinetist (Eugene Symphony Orchestra, Eugene, Ore.); Aris Chavez, clarinetist (Illinois State University); Stan Stanford, clarinetists (Portland State University); Carolyn Arnquist, clarinetist (Portland, Ore.); Jennifer Nelson, bass clarinetist (Seattle Opera Orchestra) and Eiko Nakao, pianist.

The basset horn, an unusual and rare instrument, according to Garrett, is featured on Mendelssohn's "Concertpiece No. 1 in f minor, Op. 113" and "Concertpiece No. 2 in d minor, Op. 1134 for Clarinet, Basset Horn and Piano."

"You don't often hear a piece with a basset horn. It sounds in-between a clarinet and a bass clarinet, a little more foggy sounding, and when you put it with a clarinet and a piano, it's much more agile in many ways than a bass clarinet," said Garrett. "It is a delightful instrument."

"There are probably only 10 (basset horns) in the state of Illinois and people nationwide call to rent mine. So, getting these three instruments together to play trios, was quite a trick."

Other selections on the CD are: "Divertimento for Three Clarinets and Bass Clarinet" by Alfred Uhl, and "Trios for Three Bassethorns" by Anton Stadler.

"It's been a pretty long haul," said Garrett, "'Extended Clarinets!' was about four and a half years in the making and about three years of work were put into it." The cover was designed by art/business administration double major Wendy Konfirst from Lockport, Ill., who graduated from IWU in May, and IWU graphic art designer Carrie Young. The back cover photo of Garrett on the IWU campus, was taken by photographer Paul Durako. The photo pictures Garrett, who is a car buff, with his vintage 1941 Chevrolet Special Deluxe.

Garrett, also director of the Concert and Titan bands at IWU, came to IWU in 1988. He was originally hired to head the music education program and teach the clarinet and concert band. Today, according to Garrett, his position has evolved into teaching the clarinet studio, which is eight times larger than when he first started at IWU and the concert band, which has expanded from 39 members to 94.

Garrett administers and conducts the Titan Band and the Symphonic Winds. He received a Bachelor of Music degree in Instrumental Music Education in 1983 and a Master of Music degree in Music Education from the University of Michigan in 1987 and is currently working on a Ph.D. degree in conducting and music education at the University of Michigan.

Garrett has been the guest conductor at the American Interpretations of music of Sousa, Riegger, and Gershwin Band of the Royal Swedish Army, Stockholm, Sweden; University of Wisconsin, Green Bay; and at numerous college and high school music festivals and camps.

About Illinois Wesleyan University

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,070 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art and Nursing. Since 1994, these 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, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium. Construction is underway on a \$26 million library and \$6 million student center. Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine ranks Illinois Wesleyan University 12th among the nation's 1,600 private colleges in providing a top-quality education at an affordable cost. Also sharing IWU's rank are Princeton and Dartmouth.