The Illinois Wesleyan University School of Music
Announces its New Degree Program:
The Bachelor of Music Degree in Contemporary Musicianship

This is a very exciting time to be a young musician. New career paths are expanding the range of musical activity available to trained professionals. There is a thriving scene of young musicians performing and creating a wide spectrum of music, in club-like as well as concert-hall settings. The new breed of professional musician is comfortable with performing classical alongside jazz and popular music, improvising, composing original material, self-producing recordings, incorporating technology into their performances, and managing their careers.

In response to these developments, the IWU School of Music has created a groundbreaking new degree program: the Bachelor of Music in Contemporary Musicianship. This degree is designed to prepare young performing musicians to be successful in this new artistic and professional environment. In addition to a core curriculum of performance, music theory and music history, students in the program will take courses in composition, jazz, world music, music technology, improvisation, music entrepreneurship, and recording technology, and will perform self-curated junior and senior recitals emphasizing creative choices of repertoire and/or concert presentation.

This new degree program requires a minimum of 27 units in music:

A. Six units of applied music study (.5 credit per semester of applied concentration study in first and sophomore years, four semesters; 1 credit per semester of applied major study in junior and senior years, four semesters)
B. Music 103, 104, 201, 202, 203, 204, and 205/206 or 207/208 (six units)
C. Two units of music history and literature drawn from: 358 and either 353, 354, 355, 356 or 357
D. World Music and Jazz: Jazz History (264), Exploring Musics from Around the World (346) (2 units)
E. 5.5 units of musicianship skills: Improvisation Workshop (209), Jazz Improvisation (216), Fundamentals of Conducting (227), Introduction to Composition (111), Free Composition (307), Recording Technology (113), Music Technology (114), and two semesters of a secondary instrument/voice
F. The Entrepreneurial Musician (315) (1 unit)
G. Ensembles: one unit large ensembles, one unit chamber music, the latter emphasizing contemporary music (2 units). For pianists: 2 units in accompanying (Music 31), major ensemble, and chamber music, of which at least .5 unit must be in each of these three areas.
H. Two and one-half units of music electives (suggestions: additional study of secondary instrument/voice; additional composition; additional conducting; Orchestration; Advanced Analysis; Independent Study; Electroacoustic Music; additional music history/literature courses; relevant internship)
I. one semester of Music 14X
J. six semesters of Music 15X
K. Students pursuing the Bachelor of Music degree with a major in Contemporary Musicianship must present junior and senior recitals, each taking the form of a solo and/or ensemble concert performed and curated by the student and incorporating innovative programming and/or presentation. (Ensemble concerts can function as required recitals for multiple participants with approval of the faculty.)