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August 29, 1990

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WARFIELD NAMED EIU VISITING PROFESSOR

CHARLESTON, IL.--Legendary vocalist William Warfield, who became a national star singing "Ol' Man River" in the MGM movie "Show Boat," has been named Visiting Professor for Cultural Diversity at Eastern Illinois University.

The retired chairman of the University of Illinois Voice Department and internationally acclaimed baritone will be a "role model to our young musicians at Eastern," said Charles Colbert, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.

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WARFIELD

Commenting on Warfield's appointment, Robert Kindrick, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, said, "Eastern is fortunate to have an individual of Dr. Warfield's caliber on our campus. Few artists/educators have had such a tremendous impact upon so many different fields, nor upon so many promising young people."

During his fall semester assignment, Warfield will not only be accessible to the University-at-large but will teach a class in the Music Department, provide mentoring to students, confer with faculty and administrators on various issues, and present two major public concerts.

His first appearance is at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 10, in Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center. He will also present the Community Holiday Party concert at 7:45 p.m., Dec. 7, in Dvorak.

The singer, actor and educator has recorded prolifically, appeared on radio and television broadcasts and has made numerous concert appearances throughout Europe, Australia, and the United States, including performances for five U.S. presidents.

His most famous theatrical performance was the role of Porgy in George Gershwin's opera "Porgy and Bess." He is also well known for his appearance as De Lawd in "The Green Pastures," a 1957 Hallmark Hall of Fame television production.

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WARFIELD

The Eastman School of Music graduate has received numerous recognitions for excellence in performing and in teaching. One of the highlights of his career came in 1984, when he received a Grammy Award for his spoken performance in Aaron Copland's "A Lincoln Portrait." He will do this narration with Eastern's Symphonic Wind Ensemble at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 29, in Dvorak.

Most recently he was named a 1990 Illinois Lincoln Academy Laureate, the state's highest honor.