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*"The Nation's Premier College Marching Band"*

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**A great musical tradition at Illinois lives on . . .**

There exists a long, proud history of music that was composed specifically for the University of Illinois and its performing ensembles. A number of these pieces were written by world renowned composers including *The University of Illinois March* by John Philip Sousa, *Illinois March* by Edwin Franko Goldman, *The Pride of the Illini* by Karl King, and *March of the Illini* by Harry Alford. The University's school song, *Illinois Loyalty*, which recently celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2006, was written by U of I Professor Thacher H. Guild who played in its inaugural performance with the University of Illinois Military Band—a forerunner of the Marching Illini. The *Alma Mater* and *Oskee Wow Wow* were both composed by students, as was *Cheer Illini*. Even the state song, *Illinois, Illinois*, is performed in "march" form by the Marching Illini at the opening of the pre-game show and when the basketball team enters the court after halftime. These songs are an integral part of the musical heritage of the University of Illinois.

The Marching Illini and the Illinois Basketball Band take pride in our role of providing inspiration and entertainment to tens of thousands of people each year at Illini sporting events. We take even greater pride in presenting the music of Illinois to the people of Illinois. In our continued effort to showcase and celebrate the musical history of the University, the athletic bands look forward to many more performances of *The Pride of the Illini*, *Hail to the Orange*, and *March of the Illini*. This medley is commonly known as the *Three in One*.

[This message has been approved by the University of Illinois Office of Public Relations, 2/22/07]