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## IWU Student to Conduct Car Alarm Orchestra

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## IWU Student to Conduct Car Alarm Orchestra

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. –Illinois Wesleyan student James Klopffleisch, a junior composition major, will premiere his latest work in a unique setting, the entire IWU campus, and instruments, car alarms, at 12:01 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, on the IWU campus.

The piece, titled after T.S. Eliot's poem "*The Love Song of Alfred J. Prufrock*," will be performed with alarms from 30 cars. The cars will be parked in 13 different locations around IWU's campus. To conduct his piece Klopffleisch will be stationed on the Eckley Quadrangle, where he will meet with performers at 11:45 a.m. After synchronizing their watches, his volunteer performers will then take their places around campus to man their "instruments." The entire piece will last just under two minutes.

Klopffleisch began composing and organizing this piece in November of 2005. Not only did he carefully map out when and where each alarm will go off, he also matched the alarms that have similar tempos and dominant pitches. The performers will use their synchronized watches to begin the piece one alarm at a time and build to a crescendo of all 30 alarms sounding at once. He said that his piece is "not strictly to shock or surprise people. It is intended to have them realize that they are inside a large performance."

This piece, inspired by comedian Andy Kaufman, composer John Cage and T.S. Eliot's poem, is Klopffleisch's second such piece. The first piece was a musical composition punctuated by the orchestrated coughing of members of the audience.

Klopffleisch hopes that people who hear his work on Wednesday will "not know what is going on at first but know that something is happening, then come to the gradual realization that a piece of art is being performed."