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## **Illinois Arts Council Awards Fellowship to IWU Music Prof**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. --The Illinois Arts Council (IAC) has awarded a \$7,000 fellowship to an Illinois Wesleyan University music professor.

David Vayo, professor of music, is one of 50 Illinois artists in seven categories to receive Artists Fellowship Awards for 2000. Vayo is one of eight award recipients in the music composition category.

"Having seen the list of award recipients in my field," Vayo said, "I certainly feel in good company. With federal arts funding at a low ebb, it's gratifying to see state arts agencies like the Illinois Arts Council picking up some of the slack. I'm currently brainstorming as to how I might most effectively make use of these funds."

IAC made awards this month valued at \$350,000 in choreography, interdisciplinary/performance art, media arts, photography, poetry, prose, and music composition. Additionally, \$700 awards were made to another group of 29 Illinois artists.

Vayo received a \$38,000 fellowship last month from the New York City-based John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He will use that fellowship to support writing a composition for chamber orchestra.

IAC Executive Director Rhoda A. Pierce said: "In completing this second round of Artists Fellowships for fiscal year 2000, the Illinois Arts Council continues its commitment to provide Illinois artists of exceptional talent with support to enable them to pursue their artistic goals."

IAC's first round of awards for 2000, announced in December, 1999, covered the disciplines of crafts, ethnic and folk arts, playwriting and screenwriting, and visual arts.

IAC's award recipients were selected from 548 creative artists.

Vayo's composing talent also has been recognized for 12 consecutive years by the New York-based American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP).

The world premiere of Vayo's composition Signals took place in Amsterdam on April 7, 1999. The popular Dutch ensemble, Orkest de Volharding (Perseverance Orchestra) debuted the work. Vayo received a \$15,000 commission to write Signals from the Sergei Koussevitzky Music Foundations, based in New York City and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Signals is a 12-minute piece with instrumentation including a flute, three trumpets, three saxophones, three trombones, a French horn, piano, and electric bass.

Among Vayo's other compositions are Symphony: Blossoms and Awakenings; Five Small Packages for string quartet; Study in Carmine and Coral for the piano; Poem, a chamber music

piece for flute, violin, clarinet, cello, and piano, and Wings, a piano and cello piece paying homage to Vayo's interests in Brazilian pop music and jazz.

Vayo joined the IWU faculty as an assistant professor of composition and theory in 1991, after teaching at Connecticut College, the National University of Costa Rica, and the National Symphony Youth Program of Costa Rica.

A native of New Haven, Conn., Vayo earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music composition at Indiana University. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition in 1990 from the University of Michigan.

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. A \$26 million library and a \$6 million student center are under construction. Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine ranks Illinois Wesleyan University 12th among the nation's top 1,600 private colleges in providing a top-quality education at an affordable cost. Also sharing IWU's rank are Princeton and Dartmouth.