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IWU Professor Receives 14th ASCAPLU\$ Standard Award for Music

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--For the 14th consecutive year, David Vayo, professor of music composition and theory and coordinator of new music activities at Illinois Wesleyan University, has won an award for his musical compositions from the New York-based American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP).

ASCAP is a performing rights organization whose main purpose is to compensate composers for performances and broadcasts of their music. Not only does it support classical composers, but popular lyricists and songwriters, as well. The organization grants licenses and collects fees for the public performance of copyrighted musical works by its members. ASCAP then passes along royalty payments to its member composers.

According to a letter sent to IWU President Minor Myers, jr. from Marilyn Bergman, ASCAP president and chairman of the board, the "cash awards reflect [ASCAP's] continuing commitment to assist and encourage writers of serious music."

"The awards give moral support," Vayo explained. "ASCAP recognizes what composers are doing and realizes there isn't a lot of money in royalties. These awards provide encouragement to composers like myself to continue what we are doing."

Every year, members of ASCAP fill out a form listing the number of compositions they have completed in the past year, when and where they were performed, any recordings completed and any additional awards received.

The ASCAP panel that recommended Vayo included:

- David Bowden, conductor and music director of the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic and Terre Haute and Carmel (Ind.) Symphony Orchestras.
- Carolyn Jennings, professor of music and associate dean for fine arts at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.
- Greg Sandow, music educator, composer and classical music critic for The Wall Street Journal.
- H. Robert Reynolds, director of bands and instrumental studies at the University of Michigan.
- Fred Sherry, world-renowned cellist and member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, New York, N.Y.

Vayo's compositions have been performed or broadcast more than 200 times worldwide. His most recent compositions include Reach for jazz ensemble, to be premiered later this year by the IWU Jazz Ensemble and Scuttlings and Scramblings for bass clarinet and harpsichord, to be premiered later this year by Dutch performing artists Harry Sparnaay (bass clarinet) and Annelie deMan (harpsichord).

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 earned a degree in musical arts composition in 1990 from the University of Michigan.