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Danielle Kemp
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Composer Hjertmann '07 Awarded 2014 Barlow Commission

Sept. 23, 2014

Illinois Wesleyan University alumnus **Ben Hjertmann** '07 has received the 2014 Barlow Prize to compose a major new work for saxophone quartet.

The Barlow Endowment for Music Competition at Brigham Young University reviewed over 280 composer applications from 30 countries before selecting Hjertmann as the Barlow Prize recipient.

His achievement is “a major honor in the composition world and is among the most significant professional recognition that Illinois Wesleyan music alumni have received,” said Fern Rosetta Sherff Professor of Composition and Theory David Vayo.

Hjertmann is now assistant professor of composition at Appalachian State University in North Carolina. His work has been featured at Fast Forward Austin, Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinics, the conference of the College Band Directors National Association and the South by Southwest (NonClassical showcase).

Hjertmann earned a bachelor of **music** in composition from Illinois Wesleyan and a doctor of music in composition from Northwestern University, where he taught composition, theory, music technology and songwriting classes. He composes and performs with the avant-folk trio the Grant Wallace Band and surrealist-pop band Kong Must Dead.



Ben Hjertmann '07

By Danielle Kamp '15