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Tia Patsavas  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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## Vayo, Pitchford to Perform Faculty Recital

Sept. 17, 2014

Illinois Wesleyan University **School of Music** faculty members David Vayo and Timothy Pitchford will be featured artists at a faculty recital on Sept. 27. The free concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall.

Presented as a part of the New Music Series, the concert will feature **Vayo** on piano, synthesizer and keyboard harmonica, and Pitchford on trombone and euphonium. The performances will include jazz pieces, two free improvisations and two compositions by Vayo: *Jazz Jig for Jim*, a piano piece in memory of Illinois Wesleyan Professor Emeritus James McGowan, and the world premiere of *Signs and Portents*, a solo for electronic synthesizer.

As Fern Rosetta Sherff Professor of Composition and Theory, Vayo teaches improvisation, composition and contemporary music. Also head of the composition department, Vayo serves as coordinator of new music activities, directing the New Music Café concert series and the annual symposium of contemporary music. He is an active pianist who performs contemporary music, free improvisations and jazz.

Vayo earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree from Indiana University, and a doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Michigan. As an award-winning composer, his compositions have been performed more than four hundred times.

An educator and performer in both jazz and classical music, Pitchford is an assistant professor of music and director of Illinois Wesleyan's jazz ensembles. An accomplished trombonist, Pitchford has performed with Aretha Franklin, Joe Williams and Ray Charles, and toured with KC and the Sunshine Band.

Pitchford earned a bachelor's degree from University of North Florida, a master's degree from Georgia State University and a doctorate from the University of Miami. Prior to joining the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan, Pitchford taught at Southern Illinois University. He is also a part of the Atlanta-based Piedmont Trombone Society.



David Vayo



Timothy Pitchford

*By Tia Patsavas '16*