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# Wind Ensemble is Finalist in National Competition

Dec. 16, 2016

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— The Illinois Wesleyan University Wind Ensemble is one of only three finalists nationwide in The [American Prize](#) competition in the performing arts.

The 30-member group is a finalist in the Band/Wind Ensemble Performance, college/university division. Judging was based on submissions of audio and video recordings of the group's performances.



"Competitions do not define musicians," said Visiting Assistant

Professor of [Music](#) Lev Ivanov, conductor of the Wind Ensemble. "But they help us strive to be better and achieve results we never thought were possible. To be surrounded by, and to compete with musicians who challenge you, should be the goal of every musician, and national and international competitions such as this provide that opportunity."

The Wind Ensemble comprises the top wind and percussion students at Illinois Wesleyan and performs the finest wind band literature. The ensemble has worked with Pulitzer Prize-winning composers and tours regularly in addition to its performances on the Illinois Wesleyan campus.

"Artistic excellence has always been one of my top priorities as a conductor-educator, and I think this nomination is testimony to the hard work of our students and fulfillment of a vision that if you work hard, exercise discipline and strive for artistic excellence, music will change your life in the most remarkable way," said Ivanov. "We are very happy with this recognition."



Conductor Lev Ivanov