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Ivanov Named American Prize Conducting Finalist

Feb. 8, 2017

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— Illinois Wesleyan University's Lev Ivanov is a finalist in The [American Prize](#) competition in the performing arts.

The conductor of the Illinois Wesleyan Symphony Orchestra, Ivanov is a finalist for The American Prize in Conducting – college/university orchestra division. Since 2010, The American Prize's panel of judges has provided evaluation, recognition and reward to America's finest performing artists and composers. Chief Judge David Katz was recently honored by *Musical America* for creating and sustaining The American Prize national non-profit competitions in the performing arts.

Ivanov is visiting assistant professor of [music](#). In his third year as music director of the Illinois Wesleyan Symphony Orchestra, Ivanov facilitates projects and collaborations with other forms of the arts including use of electronic music, visual aids and computer technology in an orchestral setting. His creative approach to programming provides for skillful execution of traditional repertoire alongside 21st-century orchestral music. He also conducts the Illinois Wesleyan Wind Ensemble.

"The art of conducting is exciting and complicated," said Ivanov. "The conductor bears the responsibility of sharing his vision and inspiration with other musicians. I feel that responsibility every time I am on the podium, trying to inspire my students and help them reach higher levels of artistic excellence. I am honored to be recognized as a finalist among my esteemed colleagues and fellow conductors."

Ivanov was one of five to receive prizes and special recognition at the Jeunesses Musicales Bucharest International Conducting Competition 2013 where he conducted the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra. He was awarded the *Special Mention* prize by the jury presided over by Jorma Panula from among the 50 international contestants. Ivanov is also the recipient of the George and Geraldine Swensen Watkins Endowment for Excellence in the Arts and a prize-winner of the Vorzel and Guitaralia international ensemble competitions in Ukraine and Poland. He received degrees in music performance and conducting from Tchaikovsky National Academy of Music in Ukraine, Brigham Young University and Arizona State University.



Lev Ivanov

