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Professor's Compositions Recognized in Italy, Germany, Chicago

March 15, 2007

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University Professor of Composition and Theory David Vayo, whose work has been published and performed internationally, has also been commissioned to compose musical works for Chicago area school children and for a local community theater musical production.

Vayo was recently published in the *Italia Guitar Society* series, issued by *Berben*, one of the world's leading publishers of guitar music. The published piece, "Fantasia Lirica," or, "Lyrical Fantasy," is written for classical guitar. According to Vayo, it captures Spanish and Latin American influences with its very melodic and tender tone. Vayo lived in Costa Rica in the 1980s for two years, which inspired the piece. The composition was on the program of the Region V Conference of the Society of Composers, Inc., which took place from Feb. 22 to 24 at Clark College in Dubuque, Iowa.



David Vayo

Also, the Pierrot Lunaire Ensemble Wien, a new music group based in Vienna, performed his composition "Poem" in November in Cremona and Cesena, Italy; on Dec. 16 in London, England; and on January 24 in Düsseldorf, Germany. Vayo describes the piece as mysterious and lush with emotionally intense and urgent outbursts and a quiet end. "The experience of hearing the ensemble's interpretation of the piece was wonderful," said Vayo.

The Riverside Public School District 96, near Chicago, has also commissioned Vayo to compose for their new elementary school choir. Vayo completed two songs entitled, "We're Rolling a Snowball" and "That Book," with lyrics written by his mother, an accomplished poet. The songs will be premiered in Riverside on May 9.

As an upcoming project, Vayo is composing *Fertile Ground*, a musical with script and lyrics by local writer and journalist Nancy Steele Brokaw, class of 1971, at the Prairie Fire Theater in Normal. For this work, Vayo is using Chinese instruments, which he hopes will help people hear and think about music in different ways. The premiere will take place during Prairie Fire's 2008-09 season.

Vayo, a prolific composer, has received 19 consecutive awards for his compositions from the New York-based American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). He earned a bachelor and a master's degree in music composition at Indiana University, and a degree in musical arts composition in 1990 from the University of Michigan.

For questions or additional information, contact Vayo at (309) 556-3068.

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