



Winter 1-19-1994

## IWU Professor's Piano Composition Slated for Feb. 7 Performance

Bob Aaron  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

---

### Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "IWU Professor's Piano Composition Slated for Feb. 7 Performance" (1994).  
*News and Events*. 5976.  
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/5976>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

January 19, 1994

**Contact:** Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

## St. Paul Concert

### **IWU Professor's Piano Composition Slated for Feb. 7 Performance**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--A piano work by award-winning composer David Vayo, assistant professor of music at Illinois Wesleyan University, will be performed in St. Paul, Minn., next month.

Vayo's composition, *Study in Carmine and Coral*, will be performed by pianist Craig Johnson as part of a concert featuring contemporary German and American music.

The 8 p.m. concert, Feb. 7, is at the Landmark Center.

Vayo will attend the concert and discuss his composition.

Johnson has performed Vayo's work in Germany and plans other European performances.

Vayo has written about 15 compositions, ranging from *Symphony: Blossoms and Awakenings* and *Five Small Packages* for a string quartet to *Poem*, a chamber music work for the flute, clarinet, violin, cello, and piano.

Last January, maestro Leonard Slatkin led the famed St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in a concert featuring Vayo's *Symphony: Blossoms and Awakenings*, a piece orchestrated for about 80 instruments. Following the Powell Symphony Hall concert in St. Louis, the orchestra performed *Symphony* last February in Nebraska and California.

A *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* review of *Symphony* called it " . . . ear-catching to the extreme."

Vayo's music recently has been performed in New York, Moscow, Sao Paulo, Toronto, and San Francisco, as well as at the universities of Iowa, Alabama, and Maryland.

Impressionistic composers such as Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel were early musical influences on Vayo, as well as Henry Cowell, an early 20th century innovator, who created techniques such as playing the piano directly on the strings. The powerful music of Gustav Mahler and jazz legends John Coltrane and Thelonious Monk also affected Vayo's musical attitudes and interests, as did the 1970s jazz/rock fusion music of Weather Report and the Mahavishnu Orchestra.

Vayo has won many honors including annual awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (1988-93), first prize in the Third International Spectri Sonori Composition Contest from Tulane University (1992), and a Charles E. Ives Scholarship from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters (1988).

Vayo joined the IWU faculty in 1991 after teaching at Connecticut College, the National University of Costa Rica, and the National Symphony Youth Program of Costa Rica.

A native of New Haven, Conn., Vayo earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music composition at Indiana University. He was awarded a Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition degree in 1990 from the University of Michigan.