



Spring 3-3-1995

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Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "Connecticut Native Wins Promotion, Tenure at Illinois Wesleyan" (1995).
News and Events. 5997.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/5997>

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March 3, 1995

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Connecticut Native Wins Promotion, Tenure at Illinois Wesleyan

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--David Vayo, a native of New Haven, Conn., has been promoted to associate professor of music and granted tenure by action of Illinois Wesleyan University's board of trustees.

Vayo, an award-winning composer who grew up in southern Connecticut, is the son of Harold E. Vayo, Jr., a retired employee of General Electric Supply Co., and Joan C. Vayo, a published poet. The Vayo's reside at 604 Mine Hill Rd., Fairfield, Conn.

Vayo's promotion from assistant professor is effective for the fall, 1995, semester. The board voted on 13 tenure and advancement actions at its Feb. 14 meeting.

Vayo, born in 1957, teaches composition, theory, and Latin American music at Illinois Wesleyan. He also coordinates the annual Symposium of Contemporary Music and the New Music Café concert series.

He has composed about 15 works, including *Symphony: Blossoms and Awakenings*; *Five Small Packages* for string quartet; *Study in Carmine and Coral* for the piano; *Poem*, a chamber music piece for flute, violin, clarinet, cello, and piano, and *Wings*, a piano and cello piece paying homage to Vayo's interests in Brazilian pop music and jazz.

When maestro Leonard Slatkin picked up his baton Jan. 29, 1993, to lead the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the concert featured Vayo's *Symphony: Blossoms and Awakenings*, a composition orchestrated for about 80 instruments. The St. Louis orchestra has performed Vayo's symphony four times. A review in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* called the symphony "ear-catching to the extreme."

Recent performances of Vayo's works have taken place in San Francisco, Moscow, Sao Paulo, Seoul, Hong Kong, and Mexico City.

In a profile, published in the spring, 1993, edition of *Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine*, Vayo said his composing technique begins with a determination of what instruments or voice parts will play a fundamental role in the composition.

"I pace around the office," he explained, "when I'm working on musical ideas. I get up on my feet and try to imagine what the audience hears and how a sympathetic listener would react. For the opening of a piece, I'm always looking for simple ideas that carry the seeds of what comes later. I hear the music in my mind. Then I go to the piano and play things until they match what I'm hearing." Walking, according to Vayo, gets him involved in the music in a visceral way and

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better helps him to handle the music's emotional flow than would sitting.

"I work with a tape recorder," Vayo said. "When I get an idea, rather than writing it down, I speak it or sing it into a tape to capture the idea. I often sketch with a tape recorder rather than a pencil."

Vayo joined the IWU faculty as an assistant professor of composition and theory in 1991 after teaching at Connecticut College, the National University of Costa Rica, and the National Symphony Youth Program of Costa Rica.

He 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.

Vayo has won awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, American Music Center, and the National Association of Composers USA.

Vayo serves as Membership Chair for the Society of Composers, Inc.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,800 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. In recent years, the university's endowment has grown to more than \$92 million; a \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$24 million science building will open in 1995. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 164 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barnett's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition. *101 of the Best Values in America's Colleges and Universities* calls IWU "undoubtedly one of the finest small colleges in the country," adding, "Illinois Wesleyan has surged to national prominence on the basis of its reputation as a school with a rock-solid academic program."