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## For Immediate Release - Prayer: In Memoriam Olivier Messiaen by David Vayo

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October 21, 1996

**CONTACT:** Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Atlanta's All Saints Episcopal Church will be the site of a performance this week of a musical composition by an award-winning composer from Illinois Wesleyan University.

Prayer: In Memoriam Olivier Messiaen by David Vayo, IWU associate professor of music, will be performed by Stetson University organist Susan Klotzbach at an 8 p.m. concert, Thursday, Oct. 24.

Admission to the concert is free. No tickets are required. All Saints Episcopal Church is located at 634 W. Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta.

Vayo will attend the performance.

The performance of Vayo's composition is part of the Oct. 24-27 national conference of the College Music Society, an organization of college music professors, including composers, educators, and historians.

In addition to Vayo's composition, other works will be performed.

For the ninth consecutive year, Vayo won an award this year from the New York-based American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP). In announcing the award, ASCAP said it reflects the organization's "continuing commitment to assist and encourage writers of serious music."

Vayo has composed more than 15 works, including: Symphony: Blossoms and Awakenings; Five Small Packages for string quartet; Study in Carmine and Coral for 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.

In 1993, maestro Leonard Slatkin led the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Vayo's Symphony: Blossoms and Awakenings, a composition the St. Louis Post-Dispatch praised as "ear-catching to the extreme."

Vayo, born in 1957, joined the IWU faculty as an assistant professor of composition and theory in 1991 after teaching at Connecticut College, the

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## **IWU Composer-David Vayo/2**

National University of Costa Rica, and at the National Symphony of 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 degree in composition in 1990 from the University of Michigan.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,900 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$25 million science building opened in the fall of 1995. The \$4.6 million Center for Liberal Arts--a facility housing 60 faculty offices, six classrooms, and other facilities for social science, humanities business and economics, and interdisciplinary studies' faculty--is slated to open next August. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition.