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02/01/1985 - Song Cycle Put On At EIU

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-2820

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--"Flights of Fancy," a classical five-part song cycle composed by Dr. Burton Hardin, Professor of Music at Eastern Illinois University, will be performed by Meir Rimon, Principal horn of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, and a group of outstanding music students from Indiana University Thursday, Feb. 7 in Bloomington, IN, at 8:30 p.m.

Dr. Burton said the cycle, originally written for voice, piano and French horn, has been written in a new orchestral setting for the occasion.

"Mr. Rimon called me from Israel the week of Thanksgiving and expressed interest in having the music written for string instruments," he said.

"It took me a full week of nothing but writing to complete the orchestration, and then another four weeks to iron out the rough spots."

Dr. Hardin, who also serves as the principal French hornist of the Champaign-Urbana symphony, said Rimon plans to record his composition sometime next year.

The five poems set in the cycle are "The Swing," by Robert Lewis Stevenson, "Silver Ships," by Mildred Plew Meigs, "Prayer for the Pilot," by Cecil Roberts, "An Irish Airman Foresees His Death," by William Butler Yeats, and "High Flight," by John Gillespie, Jr.

The songs carry a dedication to Philip Farkas, noted French hornist and author, who shares Dr. Hardin's love of flying and once expressed desire to be more well-known as a pilot than as a hornist. The dedication reads, "To Philip Farkas, Pilot, from Burton Hardin, Pilot." The work is the composer's Opus. 23.