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Student's original composition on CD

Summary: Ben Karlen, a senior music major at the University of Minnesota, Morris, has composed a piece of music which was recorded on a CD, titled "Holidays of the New Era."

(February 12, 2007)-Ben Karlen, a senior music major at the University of Minnesota, Morris from Owatonna, has composed a piece of music which was recorded on a CD titled "Holidays of the New Era." Karlen's piece, "O Magnum Mysterium," is approximately five minutes long. Karlen was the only undergraduate student whose composition was selected for the CD, which includes music by compositions professors around the nation and a graduate student.

Karlen's piece was launched in November 2006, but was submitted in Fall 2005. Karlen spent approximately three months composing his piece, which was performed by the UMM Concert Choir during the December 2005 Carol Concerts. In February of last year he learned that his composition had been selected for the CD.

"To get this piece on this CD, I had to send it into a competition and have it chosen out of 1,000 minutes worth of music," said Karlen, who was surprised to have his piece chosen. He continues to compose music in his free time.

Karlen is also a 2006 recipient of the Brion Dalager Memorial Scholarship from the University of Minnesota, Morris, given in memory of former UMM music student Brion Dalager by Morris residents Joyce and Vincent Dalager.

The CD is available on Amazon.com, as well as at Best Buy and Virgin Record Stores, and soon can be purchased on iTunes.

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