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Original music by student on CD

Summary: Senior music major Ben Karlen will have an original composition featured on a CD. Karlen is one of only a few undergraduate students to receive this honor, which is usually afforded primarily to faculty or graduate students.

(May 5, 2006)-Ben Karlen, senior music major at the University of Minnesota, Morris from Owatonna, will have an original composition featured on a CD, titled "Holidays of the New Era." Karlen is one of only a few students to receive this honor, which is usually afforded primarily to faculty or graduate students.

Karlen said he was surprised to have his piece recorded at such a young age. His composition, "O Magnum Mysterium," was inspired by the text of the same name. The composition took about a year to write and is about five minutes long. In addition to this work, he has written many other compositions.

"To get the piece on this CD, I had to send it into them through a competition and have it chosen out of 1,000 minutes worth of music," said Karlen. "I heard about [the competition] through the Society of Composers, an organization for composers I belong to."

Karlen is also a 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 will be available in mid-November via Amazon.com.

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