

Houston composer wins national competition

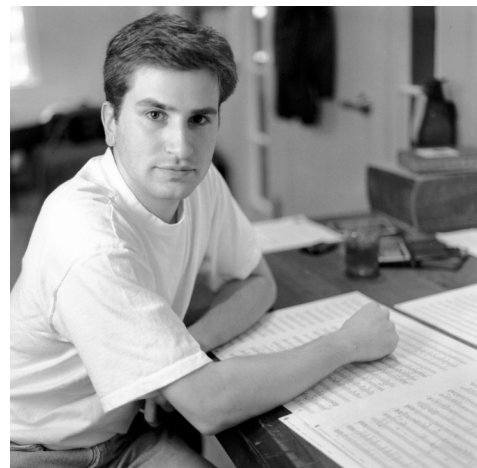
TERRE HAUTE, Ind. -- Karim Al-Zand, assistant professor of Composition and Theory at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, has been named the 2006 winner of the Louisville Orchestra Composition Competition sponsored by Indiana State University's 40th Annual Contemporary Music Festival.

His composition, "The Seventh Voyage of Sindbad," was influenced by the book "Thousand and One Nights (or 'Arabian Nights' as it's more popularly known)" and the stories of the mythical mariner Sindbad the Sailor.

"I am honored to receive this recognition and I'm delighted at the exciting opportunity to have my work performed by the Louisville Orchestra. Both the orchestra and ISU's Contemporary Music Festival have a rich and distinguished history of new music performance and I feel privileged to become a part of that," Al-Zand said.

Al-Zand's music has been performed in the US, Canada and Europe. He has been the recipient of several national awards and prizes, including the prestigious Sackler Composition Prize and the ArtSong Prize. Al-Zand is also a founding member and vice-president of Musiqa, Houston's contemporary music group, which presents concerts featuring new and classic repertoire of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

The Indiana State University Contemporary Music Festival/Louisville Orchestra Composition Competition was established to recognize outstanding composers of orchestral music. As the winning composer, Al-Zand will be invited to attend a performance of his winning composition by the Louisville Orchestra. He will also have the opportunity to speak at the festival, scheduled for Nov. 8-10, on a topic relating to his music.



The ISU Contemporary Music Festival gives students a glimpse into the lives of professional composers and performers; to promote the work of up and coming composers; and to present new music to the public. Since 1967, more than 175 established and emerging composers-including 17 winners of the Pulitzer Prize and four winners of the Grawemeyer Award-have participated in the Festival.

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