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Don Appert, Clark College music professor.

Clark's Appert wins national music award

There's arranging music, and then there's arranging a season of music: programming a year-long concert series.

Clark College music professor **Don Appert** is pretty good at both. He was just named 2011 winner of The American Prize in Orchestral Programming.

The head of Clark's music department actually had two semifinalists.

"I have two orchestras," said Appert, who also conducts the Oregon Sinfonietta in Portland.

Both his submissions were among the 10 semifinalists, and his sinfonietta season programming took the top prize.

Appert describes his approach to programming as "adventure-some," matching standards with worthy music from unknown or overlooked composers. A recent example included "Banks of Green Willow," written in 1913 by **George Butterworth**. Who?

"He died in World War I," Appert said. "It's one of only four pieces he wrote for orchestra."

Appert also gives a chance to lesser-known works by well-known composers, and he's tabbed Dvorak's Fifth Symphony for a future concert.

"I hadn't heard it until a couple of months ago, and I've been in this business a long time."

The American Prize is a series of national competitions designed to recognize and reward the best in the performing arts in the United States. It is administered by Hat City Music Theater Inc., a non-profit performing arts group based in Danbury, Conn.