What is the motivation/inspiration to undertake the creative process in music? What are the guidelines and limitations in mixing the long tradition and music vocabulary of the symphony orchestra with the jazz idiom? In what musical “style” does one attempt to compose such a work? How long does it take? What is the composer expected to provide for the symphony and jazz group to allow them to perform the piece? What are the expectations of the audience, the orchestra, the jazz group and the composer for such a work? Where does one start? What is the notation process? How does one know what it will sound like?

Distinguished Professor Dr. James Hartway (pictured right), who was awarded the Murray E. Jackson University Creative Scholar in the Arts this academic year at WSU, will answer the above questions by discussing, illustrating, and performing parts of his recently internationally premiered “Urban Pictures” concerto.

Hartway’s original compositions have been recorded, choreographed, and performed at major concert halls throughout the United States, Canada, South America, Europe, Scandinavia, Japan, China, and Africa. He has had over 1000 performances and broadcasts of his music worldwide. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in music for his concerto for jazz quartet and orchestra “Cityscapes.” He has been an annual winner of the American Society of Composers Authors and Publishers Standard Panel Award for his compositions since 1978, and has been named the Detroit Music Awards “Outstanding Classical Composer” four times. His most recent recordings have been released internationally for the Naxos “American Classics” series, on Crystal Records, and on the Bayer label.