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Leonard Weiss. Photo by Ada Goldsmith.

Third-year music and science student Leonard Weiss has won one of two Canberra Classical Guitar Society commissions.

Against tough competition, Leonard was chosen to compose an original piece for the Society's guitar orchestra. The commission comes with \$1,000 prize money.

Leonard says he was delighted to receive his first commission.

"It feels absolutely fantastic to win this commission. I feel very privileged to have been chosen and to be able to write music for the. It is incredibly rewarding to be publicly recognised for my previous guitar orchestra compositions, and I am extremely grateful to the Canberra Classical Guitar Society for this incredible opportunity," he said.

Leonard, whose primary instrument is the harp, has been composing for around eight years. This will be his fourth work for guitar orchestra, after *GO For It* (2007), *Remember* (2009), and *8-Bit Holdup* (2012), all of which have been performed by the Combined Canberra Grammar Schools' Guitar Orchestra.

"I am writing a four or five-minute work for guitar orchestra (comprised of four guitar parts)," he said. "One of the more pleasing thoughts about being commissioned to write for a specific ensemble is targeting your composition for specific performers; this will allow me to

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work with the Ensemble to ensure that my piece best supports the musicians, and vice versa. I am confident that working with Dr Calvin Bowman in the School of Music (himself a highly sought-after Australian composer) will strengthen the piece even further, and I am very much looking forward to working on and hearing the final product."

Leonard also enjoys composing for other instrument. In 2011 he was awarded First Place and the Canberra Audience Choice Prize for the National Carillon Composition Competition.

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