

American Indian Composer

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn (AIPA) — Incident At Wounded Knee, a new work by Quapah-Cherokee composer Louis W. Ballard, received its American premiere here Nov. 9 in a performance by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. The work received its partial premiere here last May.

Ballard's latest piece, in four sections, "refers not only to the recent events at Wounded Knee, S.D., but to the even more tragic and infamous nineteenth century massacre of the Minneconjou and Oglala Sioux at the same site," says Ballard, native America's foremost composer.

On Oct. 12-13, in Warsaw Poland, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra performed the world's premiere of Ballard's newest composition, and the artist was invited to Warsaw for the opening.

Ballard was also invited to accompany the orchestra on its tour, and his new work is being presented as the "representative American work" in the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra's repertoire. Concerts were slated in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, West Germany, Holland, and France before the American premiere under Conductor Dennis Russell Davies.

Ballard, a resident of Santa Fe, N.M., is program director in music for the BIA Institute of American Indian Arts there. A native of Oklahoma, Ballard studied privately with Darius Milhaud, Carlos Surinach, Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, and Felix Labunski.

Other works by Ballard include: American Indian Piano Preludes, Cacega Ayuwipi, Desert Trilogy, Devil's Promenade, Four Moons, The Gods Will Hear, Cachina Dances, Kateri Tekakwitha, Koshare, Midwinter Fires, Portrait of Will, Ritmo Indio, Scenes from Indian Life, Washington Festival Suite, and Why the Duck Has a Short Tail.