

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Laurier to host concert/masterclasses by world-class mezzo-soprano *Kimberly Barber to share her unique approach to performing with the general public*

For Immediate Release

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**Contact: Daniel Lichti
Professor, Faculty of Music
(519) 884-0710, ext. 2646**

**or Michael Strickland
Manager, Media Relations & Information
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3070**

WATERLOO – A world-renowned mezzo-soprano will share her secrets for imbuing a performance with personality and emotion during a concert and six masterclasses – three of them open to the public. Kimberly Barber will share her love of music and unique approach to performance during a music series at Wilfrid Laurier University from June 6 to 9.

This event marks the first time Barber has delivered her “Finding Your Individual Voice” concert and masterclasses outside of Toronto. The workshop draws some of the highest quality voice students from across North America. It does not focus on pure voice exercises, but rather is designed to help the performers release tension, enhance expression and increase the intensity of their performance through their personality.

“The most important thing as a performer is communicating and sharing your personality with the audience,” Barber said. “It is a magical thing, how the audience takes in the emotion and how the performer feeds off the energy coming back from the crowd.”

For the past seven years, Barber has worked with the New York Festival of Song to overcome the elitist quality of song literature and make it more accessible to the general public. The theme for the Laurier concert – love songs – is one Barber believes everyone can understand.

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She described the songs of the concert as falling into six categories, ranging from early love to disappointments in love. She claims she doesn't "spoon feed" the audience. But by mixing contemporary and English songs with the more challenging songs that aren't as well known, she seduces and cajoles the audience into enjoying music in a new way.

The masterclasses will focus on the interaction between the audience and the performer. Barber asks the audience to provide feedback on the performers and their ability to connect, building on the idea of teamwork in a non-judgmental environment.

The concert will take place at 8 p.m. on June 6 in Laurier's Maureen Forrester Recital Hall, with public masterclasses running from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. on June 7, 7 to 10 p.m. on June 8 and from 6 to 9 p.m. on June 9. Tickets to each are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students.

For more information or for tickets, the public should contact Nancy Peltier at (519) 884-0710 ext. 2631. Media wanting to interview Barber before her arrival should contact Michael Strickland at the number listed above.