

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Ontario high school musicians unite to perform concert at Laurier

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WATERLOO – To celebrate the end of an intensive two-day band workshop being held at Wilfrid Laurier University, 130 high school musicians will perform a public concert in Laurier’s Theatre Auditorium on September 24 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Twenty-nine high schools from southwestern Ontario, including 20 from the Waterloo Region District School Board, are participating in the Central Ontario Band Workshop. The students will assemble at Laurier for two days of rehearsal with renowned conductor Roger Mantie and will participate in masterclasses with Laurier faculty.

“I am really excited about working with the Central Ontario Honour Band this year,” says Mantie. “The musical history of the Kitchener-Waterloo area is one that deserves wider recognition in our national music education programs in my opinion.”

“Performing in this concert is a distinction for all of the band participants,” says Kathryn Ladano, concerts and auditions coordinator for Laurier’s Faculty of Music. “Only a select few get an invitation to take part, and it will be the first time for most participants to play in a large ensemble with a renowned conductor. In addition, it gives them an opportunity to work with local specialists on their instruments and a chance to meet other students like themselves from all over southwestern Ontario.”

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Cathy Baer, head of the music department at Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute in Kitchener and a member of the workshop organizing committee, says that after just two days students are ready to perform new and challenging pieces.

“Their performing ability improves dramatically and they really enjoy the experience of working with professional musicians,” says Baer. “When they come back to school after the workshop they are really excited and want to share what they’ve learned with other students. What a great way to start a new school year!”

The Central Ontario Band Workshop was founded almost 30 years ago by Laurier music professor Michael Purves-Smith. This year’s free concert begins at 7:30 p.m. on September 24 in the Theatre Auditorium, and is open to the public.