

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Laurier Faculty of Music to host national singing competition

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WATERLOO – The National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) annual singing competition is coming to Laurier Saturday, November 22 as the university hosts the Ontario Chapter Auditions for the first time.

Approximately 180 singers will participate, with the top finishers in each category proceeding to the NATS Great Lakes Regionals at Youngstown State University, Ohio on March 7, 2009.

Singers from across the province will compete in the morning at Laurier’s John Aird Centre. By late afternoon, a winner will be chosen in each of the 18 categories in the competition, which covers musical theatre and classical music. Participants vary in age and experience, from amateurs to aspiring professionals.

Laurier students and alumni have always performed well in NATS competitions; last year, Iasmina Pataca and Erica Huang placed first in their respective categories. This year, 23 students in Laurier’s voice program will be singing in the competition.

“I think of the NATS competition as a voice-specific Kiwanis Festival,” says Laurier voice professor Kimberly Barber. “It’s wonderful for singers to get feedback from people with different ears than their teachers. Performers get the opportunity to prepare something well and to learn how to deal with nerves, and then to receive a detailed response from three professional adjudicators.”

Public audiences are welcome at the competition and at the public concert at 5:30 p.m. in the Aird Recital Hall, which showcases the day’s winners in each category. Admission is free. For more information, please contact Prof. Kimberly Barber at kbarber@wlu.ca or 519-884-0710 ext. 2505.