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For Immediate Release

Elementary Music Education, Orchestral Instruments

Added to WLU's Bachelor of Music Degree Program

Two new honors programs--one in elementary music education and the other in orchestral instruments--will be added this fall to the bachelor of music program at Wilfrid Laurier University.

In addition, a new course in psychology and music, a cooperative venture involving personnel of those two departments, will be added to the music curriculum. The course will be one of the first of its kind in Canada.

It involves the perception and learning of music, the testing of musical abilities, and modes of the listener's response as a guide to the understanding and appreciation of musical styles, particularly of music composed since 1950.

These courses are open to part-time extension students as well as those registered full-time.

Dr. Walter H. Kemp, chairman of the music department, said the new program in elementary music education prepares students to be teachers of music in elementary schools.

The course was designed by Donald Landry of the Waterloo County board of education, and will be taught by a groups of specialists under his guidance.

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The course, methods and repertoire for musical training at the kindergarten to grade 6 and the grade 7 and 8 levels are intended to meet the philosophy and needs of the regional education system.

"Up to this point WLU has been known for its instruction in keyboard, vocal and church music," Dr. Kemp said.

"Expansion into instruction in orchestral instruments is made possible by the presence in this community of the Stratford Festival Ensemble.

"These internationally recognized players, who form the nucleus of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony under Raffi Armenian, will be available to us as our instrumental faculty," Dr. Kemp said.

"With their work in the master classes of the Stratford Festival, the year-round instruction which performers could offer holds exciting potential for the community and the country. We are thrilled to be involved in this development."