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For Immediate Release

Opera Coach, Piano Team Join

Growing Faculty of Music at WLU

A world-renowned opera coach and a celebrated two-piano team are among new appointments to the faculty of music at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo.

Jacqueline Richard of Montreal, referred to by the dean of the faculty of music, Dr. Christine Mather, as "Canada's most famous opera coach," will build an opera program at the university.

Born and educated in Quebec, Miss Richard has spent most of her professional career preparing performances at great European opera houses, including Bayreuth, Paris, Hamburg and Dusseldorf.

The Canadian piano team of Garth Beckett and Boyd McDonald of Winnipeg joins the piano and theory departments.

As a duo, they have toured extensively in Europe and Canada, and are heard regularly on radio and television.

Another appointment is Anne Hall of St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., who will head the theory department.

"She is one of the best theory teachers I know," said Dean Mather. "She studied in Paris for three years with the great French musician Nadia Boulanger. She brings to the faculty immense experience in theory and a welcome combination of French and North American training."

The young Canadian composer, Owen Underhill of Victoria, will come to WLU as visiting musician to start a new composition program, establish an electronic music studio and form an ensemble for the performance of new music.

Harpsichordist Michael Purves-Smith, presently of Brock University, St. Catharines, will have a wide variety of duties within the new baroque program at WLU.

"He will direct performances of Renaissance and baroque music, teach harpsichord, baroque oboe, and be involved in instrument-building projects. WLU just acquired a superb new harpsichord and will be receiving delivery of a second one in November," said Dean Mather.

The dean said she is "particularly pleased at the wide variety of background now represented in the faculty--origins stretching right around the globe." They come from Australia, Switzerland, Scotland, Newfoundland, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and the United States.

"This kind of cosmopolitanism is very important in a completely international discipline such as music; yet it comes within a 92 per cent Canadian citizenship.

The faculty will move into new quarters in W. Ross Macdonald House this fall, a building named for the university's former chancellor and late lieutenant-governor of the province.

Faculty offices and a voice studio in this building are linked with the Theatre-Auditorium, being renovated to provide a number of practice studios and a small recital hall.

Only organ classes will be given in a different location--on the recently installed tracker-action instrument housed in the chapel of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, the federated theological college on campus.