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For immediate release

It's a musical summer for Simcoe county  
as Laurier launches major workshops, concerts.

Wilfrid Laurier University will hold a series of voice, opera, music education and theatre arts workshops in Simcoe County this summer, culminating in a number of concerts open to the public.

Dr. Gordon Greene, dean of music at Laurier, said the university will hold two month-long workshops for voice students.

The first, from June 1 to 28, will culminate in nine performances of Lerner and Loewe's musical Brigadoon on the first three weekends in July.

The second workshop series, from July 12 to Aug. 6, will focus on Sigmund Romberg's operetta The Student Prince. It will be offered in six performances in August.

Greene said Laurier will shift its major summer music program from Waterloo to take advantage of the newly renovated Orillia Opera House.

He said an outstanding faculty has been assembled to offer an exciting and challenging experience for all participants. All courses offered will carry credit toward a university degree, if desired.

Among faculty members are Canada's internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano Janice Taylor; Toronto choreographer Robert McCollum; Thomas Schweitzer, an award-winning graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts; and William Shookhoff, director of the Edmonton Opera Company and a staff member with the Canadian Opera Company.

Others on the faculty include Dr. Louise Andre from Montreal, and Victor Martens and David Falk, of the Wilfrid Laurier University's music faculty.

Greene said the university has made a two-year commitment to the program with an assessment to be made at the end of that time.

Voice workshops have been offered at the Waterloo campus for several years, he said, but the Orillia program will be expanded to include courses in producing musical theatre; costume design and makeup; and dance, mime and movement.

He said applications to take the courses can be made directly to the university. Auditions will be held in Waterloo, on April 3 and in Orillia April 4 at the Opera House.

"In addition to offering serious music students an excellent opportunity for professional training, we will be bringing the Orillia area and its many summer visitors an opportunity to enjoy first-rate musical theatre," he said.

Wilfrid Laurier University is no stranger to Simcoe county. It has been offering credit courses in the county since the early 1960s. Students may take all requirements for a B.A. degree without leaving the county.