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Music performance diploma
to be offered by Laurier

A new performance diploma in music, just announced by Wilfrid Laurier University, will open new doors to music students who have specific career goals as performers in opera, symphony orchestras, or are aiming for a career as solo performers.

Dr. Gordon Greene, dean of music at Laurier, said the diploma program with its strong performance orientation is needed to complete the undergraduate spectrum of offerings by the music faculty.

The faculty now offers four-year bachelor's degrees in music and music therapy and a bachelor of arts degree with a music major, a three-year program.

"Students with a strong interest and demonstrated ability in performance will find the new diploma program an appropriate way to prepare themselves for a performance career," the dean said.

He compared the new program to the European model, where academic courses in music are traditionally given in universities and the performance courses in an academy. In North America, both are usually combined and taught in universities.

Students taking the new diploma will concentrate more on voice or their chosen instrument and will take fewer academic courses.

Entry to the program will be restricted to those candidates who demonstrate a high degree of aptitude in performance.

"I don't think we will have any more than 15 students taking the diploma, out of our total of 220 students," Greene said.

while it will be possible to enter the program from high school, most students will take the first year of the bachelor of music program before transferring to the diploma program.

"The concentration of performance courses in the new program is one reason a diploma, rather than a degree, is offered," the dean said.

"It should be noted, however, that a number of academic courses will ensure a breadth of intellectual challenge."

while some students will begin the new program in the spring term, Greene said, the majority will be accepted this fall.