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Public offered free concerts as high school band members gather at Laurier

About 100 of the top instrumental students from high schools in Waterloo, Wellington, Perth and Brant counties will be at Wilfrid Laurier University Oct. 28 and 29 for the seventh annual Central Ontario Band Workshop, with two events free and open to the public.

The students-- four from each high school in the four counties-- will spend the two days in music-making, climaxed when they form the Central Ontario Honor Band and present a free concert Oct. 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the university's theatre auditorium. The public is invited to attend.

The guest clinician for the workshop will be Dr. Fordyce (Duke) Pier, professor of trumpet, director of the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and director of performance studies at the University of Alberta.

Pier was the founder of the University of Alberta's stage band, the first accredited stage band at any Canadian university. Pier studied trumpet at Yale and Boston universities and returned to teach at both of them. He also taught at the University of New Mexico.

He has appeared with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra as soloist and is an active clinician throughout Western Canada in the trumpet, brass, band and stage band areas.

The high school students will rehearse for their concert a number of times over the two-day session, and also will attend master classes in their instrument with members of the Canadian Chamber Ensemble and the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra, all of whom teach in the Laurier music faculty.

On Oct. 28 they will attend a performance of the WLU Wind Ensemble and the Wellington Winds in the theatre auditorium, at 7:30 p.m. This event is also open to the public without charge.

The workshop is jointly sponsored by the Laurier music faculty and the four county school boards, and takes place during National Universities Week.