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Jan Narveson to speak at Laurier's spring convocation

Jan Narveson, founder of the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Music Society, and Bill Hopper, chairman and chief executive officer of Petro-Canada, will receive honorary degrees at Wilfrid Laurier University's spring convocation May 28.

Narveson, a philosophy professor at the University of Waterloo, will also address about 1,100 graduands and more than 3,000 guests at the 2:15 p.m. ceremony at the Kitchener auditorium.

He will receive an honorary doctor of letters degree in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the cultural fabric of Kitchener-Waterloo. As founder and president, Narveson has run the 15-year-old music society out of his home and has been responsible for organizing more than 40 concerts each season.

Narveson has also made a substantial contribution to the development of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra, the Community Orchestra and the Youth Orchestra. Last June, a special concert of top Canadian musicians, organized by the music

society's executive, was held at Laurier in his honor.

For 10 years, Narveson has been reviewing music in UW's Gazette newspaper under the pen name "Cecilia," the patron saint of music. He also hosts a weekly music program on CKMS radio in Waterloo.

Laurier's dean of music, Gordon Greene, credits Narveson with "almost single-handedly sustaining a level of amateur and professional music performance unmatched in any community of comparable size in Canada."

The 52-year-old professor, who has taught at UW for 26 years, is the author of three books and numerous papers on ethics. A native of Minnesota, he received his BA from the University of Chicago in 1955 and his PhD from Harvard in 1961.

Bill Hopper of Calgary is respected by business and government leaders across the nation and is well known for his expertise in international oil and gas operations.

In 1984, he was made an officer of the Order of Canada and was the subject of a National Film Board production entitled, "The Man From PetroCan." In 1981, the Globe and Mail's Report on Business named Hopper "Man of the Year."

The 56-year-old native of Ottawa began his career as a petroleum geologist with Imperial Oil in 1955 before completing his MBA at the University of Western Ontario in 1959. He then worked as a senior energy economist for the National Energy Board.

For 10 years, Hopper was a senior petroleum adviser with A.D. Little of Cambridge, Mass., and served as a consultant to a

wide variety of energy organizations throughout the world. In 1973 he returned to Canada to become assistant deputy minister for energy policy in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and remained until his appointment as president and chief executive officer of Petro-Canada in 1976.

Hopper served as chairman of the Canadian Petroleum Association in 1988-89 and continues to be on its board of governors and executive committee.

As well as serving as director of a number of corporations, Hopper is also director of the Canada-China Trade Council and the Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation.

He is also on the board of governors of Acadia University; the Schooner Bluenose Foundation in Nova Scotia; the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies; and Ashbury College in Ottawa.

Hopper is also a member of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research and on the advisory committee of the school of business administration at the University of Western Ontario.