

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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March 27, 1991
015-1991

Laurier offers workshop for aspiring musicians facing auditions

Mouths go dry. Violin bows shake. Singers forget music for their accompanists.... For aspiring musicians depending on a good audition to be admitted to university-level studies, nervousness can be deadly.

To help senior high school students put their best foot forward at an audition, Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo will offer a workshop on Monday, April 8. The workshop is also open to music teachers.

Participants will learn everything from how to choose the right pieces of music, to how to manage nervousness, and how to dress.

"It's meant to help students do their best and enable the universities to better assess their abilities," said Michael Purves-Smith, a professor of music at Laurier and one of the workshop co-ordinators.

"We know students will be nervous," he said. "It's our business to teach them music and performance, but we want to be able to see if the potential is there."

Workshop topics will include audition preparation and presentation, the management of performance anxiety, and an explanation of just what universities are looking for in a music student.

Laurier music students will demonstrate attributes of a good audition as well as common faults. Participants will also have the opportunity to audition and then be privately critiqued.

Joining faculty members in the workshop will be Dr. Dale Fogle, director of counselling services at Laurier. Since 1977, he has helped Laurier's music students deal with the stress of performance through individual counselling and class discussions.

Each year, Laurier auditions the more than 200 students who apply for admission to the faculty of music. This year's auditions will be held April 27 to May 8.

The faculty considers applicants' academic grades, technique, and musicianship. In addition to auditioning, applicants take a theory test and have an interview with a faculty member.

To register for the afternoon workshop, contact the faculty of music at 884-1970 ext. 2631.

NOTE: Members of the media are welcome to attend the workshop, held from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in Rm. 318 of the John Aird Centre.