

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



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**April 20, 1993**  
**22-1993**

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### **String quartets gather for QuartetFest '93 at Wilfrid Laurier University**

*Waterloo, Ont. (April 20)* — The traditional string quartet repertoire will be seasoned with experimental works and spiced with country fun during QuartetFest '93 at Wilfrid Laurier University from June 4 to 13.

The second annual celebration of string chamber music will feature five concerts by the Penderecki String Quartet, the Lafayette String Quartet, the Fine Arts Quartet, and Frank Leahy, 1984 Canadian fiddle champion. Two other concerts will showcase the participants in Laurier's Intensive Chamber Music Program, which begins May 14.

"The repertoire of string chamber music is incredibly rich and varied," says Paul Pulford, cellist for the Penderecki String Quartet and artistic director of the festival. "We want our audiences to experience its many personalities and moods — even its surprises."

Four of the concert programs will highlight music ranging from works by Joseph Haydn, known as the father of the string quartet, to recent masterpieces and world premiers of works by leading young composers Randolph Peters and Aleksander Lason. "Dreams and Dances for String Octet" by Canadian composer John Estacio was premiered to accolades at last year's festival and will return to the program by popular demand.

The Penderecki Quartet and the Lafayette Quartet will perform together at two concerts and the Penderecki Quartet will join the Fine Arts Quartet at the second

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concert. Their collaboration ranges from the Octet by Mendelssohn and the Sextet in B flat major by Brahms to the work by Estacio and Lullaby for String Sextet by Canadian Christopher Butterfield.

Performing with the Penderecki String Quartet for the festival's closing concert will be Russian pianist Lev Natochenny, with whom the quartet recently released a compact disk of the Brahms Piano Quintet.

Leahy, known as the Don Messer of the nineties, and his quartet (piano, guitar, drums, and violin) promise to get hands clapping and feet tapping when they treat festival goers to some down-home fiddle music and Grappelli-type jazz.

Four of the concerts will be recorded by CBC Radio for future broadcast.

Chamber music fans should not miss the rare opportunity to hear playing further inspired by the interaction of the musicians, Pulford says.

"A quartet rehearses alone for many hours and travels in isolation to its concerts," he adds. "Being together for an event like this has a profound effect on us as musicians and on our creative development. The audiences will feel that extra sparkle. We do."

All of the concerts will be held at 8 p.m. in the recital hall of Laurier's John Aird Centre.

A subscription for all seven concerts is \$75. Concerts are priced from \$10 to \$20 each and a series of any four can be purchased at a 20-per-cent discount. Individual concert tickets for students and seniors are \$7 each. To arrange for tickets, contact Laurier's faculty of music office at (519) 884-1970 ext. 2432 or any TicketMaster outlet in Ontario.

Quartetfest is being co-sponsored by Laurier; the Penderecki String Quartet; the Ontario Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation; and the Ontario Arts Council.

# Wilfrid Laurier University



Founded 1911

## The Penderecki String Quartet

Jerzy Kaplanek, violin  
Yariv Aloni, viola

Piotr Buczek, violin  
Paul Pulford, cello

The Penderecki String Quartet has established itself as one of the finest international ensembles. Founded in 1981 at the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, the quartet has participated at international festivals with such prominent teachers as former Bartok Quartet member Sandor Devich, the Amadeus Quartet, and the Melos Quartet. In 1984, the Penderecki Quartet gained recognition at the International Summer Academy for Chamber Music in Hitzacker, Germany; the International String Quartet Competition in Evian, France; and the Rome Festival. In 1986, the ensemble won the Polish National Chamber Music Competition and its Krzysztof Penderecki Special Award.

Prior to its first major U.S. tour in 1988, the quartet was based at the Institute of Chamber Music at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, as assistants to the Fine Arts Quartet. The tour, which included more than 40 concerts on the east coast and throughout the mid-west was received with great critical acclaim and led to artists-in-residence positions at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, in 1989 and Trenton State College in New Jersey in 1990.

During the past few seasons, the Quartet has been featured at the Berliner Philharmonie Hall, MIDEM in Cannes, the Oregon Bach Festival, the Houston Lyric Arts Festival, the San Antonio Festival, the Mediterranean Festival in France, and the Merano Festival in Italy. The ensemble has made several New York appearances and received a standing ovation for its Kennedy Center debut in 1991.

Since 1991, the Penderecki Quartet has been quartet-in-residence at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. In addition to co-ordinating the Chamber Music and String programs at WLU, the Quartet also holds a four-week Intensive Chamber Music Course each spring which attracts many gifted young musicians.

This season, the Quartet signed a recording contract with ADDA of France. Their first releases with ADDA will be a CD with the complete quartets of Penderecki this summer and later, a recording of the complete quartets of Benjamin Britten. In 1992 the Penderecki Quartet released the Brahms Piano Quintet with TRITONUS in Stuttgart and the "Tango" from *Smoked Lizard Lips* by Canadian composer Randolph Peters.

This season, the Quartet will return to Poland for concerts and recordings marking the 60th birthday of Krzysztof Penderecki.

## The Fine Arts Quartet

Ralph Evans, violin  
Jerry Horner, viola

Dim Boico, violin  
Wolfgang Laufer, cello

The Fine Arts Quartet is one of the most distinguished ensembles in chamber music today. Performing regularly on America's major chamber music series, the Quartet has recently given concerts in Los Angeles, New York, St. Louis, Phoenix, Buffalo and Washington. Appearances last summer included their annual Summer Evening of Music series in Milwaukee, the International Music Festival of Montreal and the Orford Festival in Canada, and their second season as resident ensemble of the Music/Art Festival in Grenoble, France.

One of Europe's favourite American quartets, the Fine Arts spends several months each season at the major festivals and music capitals of Europe. Recent appearances include a tour of Russia, with performances in Moscow of the Shostakovich and Mendelssohn Octets with the Borodin Quartet; a series of concerts in Amsterdam, Utrecht, and The Hague with pianist Menahem Pressler; and three performances of Mozart's six viola quintets at the Israel Festival. In December, the quartet returned to Moscow to present, with three other quartets, the complete Beethoven string quartets.

The Fine Arts Quartet has recorded 15 masterworks since 1985 on the Lodia, Gasparo and Ades labels. The Quartet members, artists-in-residence at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and frequent guests at the Paris Conservatory, have been invited to serve as artists-in-residence at the Conservatoire National Supérieur in Lyon for the fall of 1993.

*Office of Institutional Relations*

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## **The Lafayette String Quartet**

**Ann Elliott-Goldschmid, violin**  
**Joanna Hood, viola**

**Sharon Stanis, violin**  
**Pamela Highbaugh, cello**

The Lafayette String Quartet, formed in 1984, has gained recognition as one of America's most exciting chamber ensembles. The musicians met when they were members of a Detroit-based chamber orchestra and today the quartet is hailed among the leading string quartets of its generation at performances throughout North America, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, England, and the Netherlands.

In 1988 the quartet won the Grand Prize at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. Additional prizes were awarded at the 1988 Portsmouth (England) International String Quartet Competition and the 1989 Chicago Discovery Competition. The quartet was also cited among the "Young Artists to Watch of 1988" by Musical America.

The Lafayette quartet has worked extensively with the Cleveland Quartet — a relationship that began after it won the Cleveland Quartet Competition at the Eastman School of Music. Other notable coaches have included Rostislav Dubinsky, Lynn Blakeslee, and members of the Alban Berg and Amadeus Quartets.

The quartet will soon release its second CD on the Dorian label.

The musicians make their home in Victoria, B.C. where they are artists-in-residence at the University of Victoria. They have also been artists in residence at Detroit's Center for Creative Studies. They play on four Amati instruments on loan from the University of Saskatchewan.

## **Frank Leahy**

Frank Leahy may well be the Don Messer of the '90s. Classically trained, Leahy suffers no culture shock when he slips from concerto to down-home clogs, jigs, and reels to contemporary music including jazz and swing.

Winner of the 1984 Canadian National Fiddling Championships and session fiddle player for the nationally syndicated radio show "Prime Time Country" since 1990, Leahy has taken up where Don Messer left off — waltzing Canadian old-time fiddling into the '90s. His first CD, "Bending the Bow," was released in 1992.

In May 1994 Leahy will appear at the Centre in the Square with concert master Eduard Minevich and full symphony backup in an evening aptly called Bending the Bow.

Leahy recently earned a bachelor of music degree from Wilfrid Laurier University, where he studied violin under Eduard Minevich and chamber music with members of the Penderecki String Quartet.

## **Lev Natochenny**

Since winning the 1981 Busoni International Piano Competition in Bolzano, Italy, Lev Natochenny has been praised by critics both in Europe and the United States as a "rare master of his instrument" and a "real genius in his creativity."

He has been a featured soloist with major American orchestras and prominent conductors. Natochenny has toured many European countries in addition to playing solo recitals and chamber music concerts in the United States and Canada.

Natochenny frequently collaborates with prominent instrumentalists in chamber music performances. His latest appearances were with renowned cellist Mishca Maisky, clarinetist Stanley Drucker, violist Toby Hoffman, and New York Philharmonic musicians in the orchestra's chamber music series.

He is a professor of music at C.U.N.Y. Queens College, gives master classes internationally, and serves on the faculty of Manhattan School of Music.

Natochenny is also a winner of the Gina Bachauer Award and the First Prize Winner of the Young Artists International Piano Competition in New York. He has recorded for "Nuova Era" and "Newport Classic" labels.

The native of the former Soviet Union received his Ph.D. with honors in performance from the famed Moscow Conservatory and studied with Russia's finest artists: Lev Oborin, Boris Zemliansky, and Eliso Virsaladze.