

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Storytelling benefit event will help fund programs for the disabled *My Heart is Full celebrates healing ability of music and storytelling*

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WATERLOO — A benefit event at Laurier this Saturday promises to deliver a magical evening of music and storytelling. *My Heart is Full: Stories that Dream* will unite social services and the performing arts through a unique celebration of storytelling and healing.

Proceeds from the concert will help fund Opening New Doors of Waterloo Region, a not-for-profit organization that supports people with developmental disabilities. Seven members of Opening New Doors are part of a unique initiative called the Lifestory Project, which gathers personal stories from people with developmental challenges for future publication. The collection of stories will be highlighted at the concert.

"Members of the Lifestory Project are ready to share their stories with the community," says Susan L. Scott, Lifestory Project editor. "The community will benefit from seeing the courage and vibrancy that is so often hidden from view."

Humorist David Hobson will host the evening, and guest artists from the Baden Storytelling Guild, including Mary-Eileen McClear, will perform. Singer-songwriter Nonie Crete, with Helen Basson and Glen Soulis, and the Bluevale C.I. Male Chorus will join the storytellers. A post-concert reception with performers will follow.

My Heart is Full, sponsored by Laurier's Department of Religion & Culture, begins at 7 p.m. in Laurier's Maureen Forrester Recital Hall. Tickets are \$12 at the door, or can be purchased in advance for \$10 by contacting Opening New Doors at (519) 578-6944.