

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## CD offers a comprehensive introduction to music at Laurier

For Immediate Release:

April 29, 1998  
20-98

Contact: **Dr. Anne Hall**  
**Dean: Faculty of Music**  
**(519) 884-0710 ext. 2151**

or **Michael Strickland**  
**Media Relations Officer**  
**(519) 884-0710 ext. 3070**

WATERLOO – It's definitely a first for Wilfrid Laurier University and, perhaps, for all university music programs across the country.

A mammoth two-year effort, involving just about every student in Laurier's Faculty of Music along with key faculty and staff, culminated today with the release of *Music at Laurier: A Sampler*. The sampler offers a comprehensive introduction to the music performed by students and faculty members.

"At least, it's as comprehensive as you can be in 60 minutes," explains Anne Hall, Dean of the Faculty of Music. "It represents the range of music performed in the Faculty. The music on this disk is first class."

The CD begins with the Laurier Chamber Orchestra's performance of Vivaldi's *Concerto in F minor*, 'Winter', and ends with a movement of Johannes Brahms's *Ein deutsches Requiem*, performed by the WLU Choir and the WLU Symphony Orchestra. In between, listeners will hear the WLU Wind Ensemble playing *A Prairie Schubertiade* by Laurier professor Michael Purves-Smith, and an original composition, titled *Auyuittuq*, by Laurier student Joanne Bender. The Laurier Singers, members of the Baroque and Early Music Ensemble, and the University's Jazz Trio also perform.

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Six of the eight pieces were recorded in Laurier's Maureen Forrester Recital Hall on April 4 and 5, 1996. The remaining two were recorded on April 5 of the following year in the University's Theatre Auditorium.

The recording session offered students insights into a part of the performer's life that is often overlooked. A performance career involves more than just live concerts; true professionals must understand the recording process. The CD project afforded most students a first opportunity to work with professional recording engineers, and with a recording producer such as Ross Gibaut.

"Working on a CD is now part of what performers do," says Hall, "which is why performing on this sampler was important to the students' education." To ensure all students receive that same experience, the Faculty hopes to record a new sampler every four years.

But the next generation of music students won't have to wait until then to benefit from a sampler project. The release of the first CD coincides with this week's auditions for fall admission, so prospective students can return home with an introduction to the music that will be a part of their lives should they choose to attend Laurier. "It's sure to be an important part of a student's decision," says Hall. "It offers them a glimpse of the quality of music the Faculty makes."

It's a glimpse that only Laurier appears to offer. Hall knows of no other university program in Canada that has ever created a sampler of music performances. "If there are other people doing this, they're certainly keeping it a secret."

While applicants and the Friends of the Faculty will receive a free CD, the general public can purchase one of 5,000 copies for \$10. Janet Dupuis of Laurier's Faculty of Music can provide a copy to anyone who calls (519) 884-0710 ext. 2432.