

NEWS RELEASE

**Wilfrid Laurier
University**



Laurier's Faculty of Music marks 25th anniversary with organ CD

CD features works by former faculty member Barrie Cabena, performances by Jan Overduin

For Immediate Release

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WATERLOO – The Faculty of Music at Wilfrid Laurier University is marking its 25th anniversary by releasing a compact disk featuring Barrie Cabena, a former faculty member and one of Canada's most prolific organ music composers. With performances by Cabena and Laurier professor Jan Overduin, it is the only CD of Cabena's work that he is directly involved in as both composer and performer.

Originally released as an LP in 1987 to mark the University's 75th anniversary, *Organ Works by Barrie Cabena* includes music recorded in Laurier's Keffer Memorial Chapel and is the only CD to feature the WLU Chapel organ. Five of the works commemorate numerous organists and composers, as well as the 125th anniversary of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Kitchener.

"Between the composer, the performances, the organ and the recording this is a very Laurier-focused CD. Especially with the Faculty of Music's anniversary this year, it seemed appropriate to make this music available now," said Overduin, who is responsible for the project. "The CD also features Barry Cabena performing his own work, which is very unique and can be quite valuable in a historical perspective."

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Cabena joined the full-time faculty of Waterloo Lutheran University in 1970 and served as professor of organ and church music until his retirement in 1997. As of 1999, his compositions include over 50 organ and piano sonatas, eight violin and cello sonatas, seven string quartets, five string trios, two choral symphonies and an opera.

A leading Canadian organist, Overduin is currently the University organist at Laurier, chair of the University's organ and church music department, and conductor of the WLU Chapel Choir. Specializing in the works of Bach, he will be performing in Cambridge, Toronto, Michigan and Germany throughout the year.

The CD was made possible by a grant from the Laurier Research Office and all proceeds raised by the sale will go to the Faculty of Music. The CD retails for around \$18.00, and is available from the Laurier Bookstore and some area music stores.