

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



First Bellows & Brass CD highlights music from local composer *Relationship between trio and Boyd McDonald comes together in eclectic compilation*

For Immediate Release

March 19, 2001
24-01

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WATERLOO – Independent music label Springdale Records is this week releasing *Bellows & Brass...and Boyd*, an eclectic compilation of contemporary classical music with many connections to Wilfrid Laurier University. The CD features music by professor emeritus Boyd McDonald; it was recorded at, and financially supported by, the University; and it is the first recording by the Bellows & Brass trio, which includes Laurier music instructor Guy Few.

The CD was 10 months in the making and represents long-standing relationships between Boyd and the members of Bellows & Brass. The trio of trumpet/piano player Few, trombonist Alain Trudel and accordionist Joseph Petric officially formed in 1997, but Boyd has worked with them in various combinations since 1989. Few, Trudel and Petric commissioned many of the pieces to showcase their individual strengths.

“All of these guys are virtuosos in their fields and the music I wrote for them is really quite challenging,” says Boyd, whose work combines many technical and traditional influences with a great sense of humor and theatricality. “Even though my music has been recorded before, it’s always exciting to put together a new release. Bellows & Brass rose to the occasion and I’m very proud of the end result.”

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The CD begins with “Tango,” which was written for Bellows & Brass’s 1997 tour of eastern Canada. “Pulsations for Piano” premiered at the 1995 Federal Music Teachers’ Conference in Saskatoon and incorporates traditional pianistic idioms while exploring the piano’s full sonorities. The movements of “Three Accords” alternate between lyricism, gentle humor and virtuosity. “An Artist’s Neighbourhood” was composed to accompany a video about the work of local artist Woldemar Neufeld.

On “Concertpiece for Trumpet and Piano,” Few plays both instruments, sometimes simultaneously, a talent and versatility he demonstrates on a number of tracks. “Overture for Accordion and Piano” is a tour de force and “Three for Two” has both Few and Trudel tackling dual roles on brass and piano. The CD wraps up with “Time Lines for Piano Four Hands,” a technically demanding work which focuses on sections that require free, unsynchronized performances.

The CD was recorded in Laurier’s Maureen Forrester Recital Hall in May 2000 and was made possible by a grant from the University’s research office and the academic development fund. Boyd produced the CD along with Petric, Peter Hatch of Laurier’s Faculty of Music and Clive Allen, who also served as recording engineer.

A release party for *Bellows & Brass... and Boyd* will be held at the Laurier Bookstore on Thursday, March 22 at noon. Copies of the CD are available through the Laurier Bookstore, the Canadian Music Centre and various local distributors. For more information, visit the Springdale Records Web site at www.springdale-records.com.