

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Hamilton concert marks world premiere of music by Boyd McDonald *Three Psalms by Laurier professor emeritus performed by alumnus Reid Spencer*

For Immediate Release

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WATERLOO – The world premiere of *Three Psalms* for baritone and orchestra, composed by Wilfrid Laurier University professor emeritus Boyd McDonald, will be performed by Laurier alumnus Reid Spencer at a concert with Symphony Hamilton on Saturday, March 31.

Billed as *Celebrating the Americas*, the concert will take place at 8 p.m. at Hamilton's Tivoli Theatre. McDonald's *Three Psalms* – "O clap your hands," "I will lift up mine eyes" and "O Lord, how many are my foes" – were originally written for voice and piano and premiered in 1988, 1998 and 2000 respectively. McDonald rewrote the pieces for voice and symphony in 2001 after Symphony Hamilton commissioned the work.

"After I wrote the first piece, I had a dream of putting together a trio of psalms. Working with Reid Spencer brought the whole project together," says McDonald. "This isn't my first composition for a full orchestra and it isn't my first world premiere, but it will still be wonderful to finally hear the three psalms performed together."

The concert, conducted by James McKay, also includes Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* performed by McDonald, a group of Cole Porter duets performed by Spencer and Susan Blythe-Schofield, and Howard Hanson's *Symphony No. 2*. Tickets are available through the theatre box office at (905) 526-6690 and are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$5 for children under 12.

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