

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Laurier orchestra and choirs bring Brahms concert to River Run

Awards ceremony recognizing Faculty of Music students and donors will precede performance

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University’s Faculty of Music will bring one of the great classical works of choral and orchestral music to Guelph when the Laurier Singers, WLU Choir, WLU Chapel Choir and WLU Symphony Orchestra perform Brahms’s *Ein duetches Requiem* at the River Run Centre on April 1. A ceremony recognizing Faculty of Music award winners will precede the 3 p.m. performance.

For one concert each year, Laurier brings together its orchestra and three largest choirs to experience grander, larger works in the classical repertoire. Nearly 200 Laurier music students, or roughly two-thirds of the Faculty of Music, are involved, along with soprano soloist Naomi Williams and bass soloist Calvin Powell. The concert offers students the chance to perform music beyond the scope of regular classes and gives the local community an opportunity to hear one of Brahms’s most important choral compositions.

“There is a great deal of talent in Laurier’s Faculty of Music and it’s very important to us that we share it with the community,” says conductor Noel Edison, who also conducts Toronto’s Mendelssohn Choir and is the artistic director of the Elora Festival. “I believe the audience will enjoy the Brahms requiem because, though it deals with death, it’s very compelling music.”

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Brahms's *Academic Festival Overture*, Opus 80, and *Residue (2001)* by Laurier composition student William Brent are also on the program.

Prior to the concert, the Faculty of Music will hold a ceremony recognizing the achievements of 43 students who received awards this year and the donors who made the awards possible. Totaling \$45,000, the awards are granted on the basis of academic excellence, outstanding promise or talent, potential for significant contributions to music and faculty recommendations.

Tickets for the concert, which is co-sponsored by The Co-operators, are \$20 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students. They are available through the River Run Centre box office at (519) 763-3000.