

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Proceeds from *Messiah* concert to help victims of violence

For Immediate Release

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WATERLOO, Ont. – The faculty of music at Wilfrid Laurier University is directing proceeds from the first of two end-of-term choir concerts to the victims of September 11. Faculty members and students have decided to donate the anticipated \$5,000, which would normally help fund student scholarships, to victims of violence worldwide.

Noel Edison, conductor of The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir as well as conductor and artistic director of the Elora Festival, will conduct the two performances of Handel's *Messiah* in Laurier's Theatre Auditorium at 8 p.m. on Friday, November 30, and 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 02. The WLU Choir, Laurier Singers and WLU Alumni Orchestra will perform and the faculty is inviting notable alums to participate in the orchestra and as vocal soloists.

Proceeds from the concerts normally fund scholarships for incoming students, which helps keep the program competitive. But events on and since September 11 prompted faculty and students to redirect funds to Doctors Without Borders, now helping victims in the U.S. and Afghanistan.

"Recent events have left people looking for ways to help," explained Charles Morrison, dean of the faculty of music. "Students and faculty favour donating the money raised from this concert to people in need."

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The faculty is suspending its complimentary ticket list, which normally puts half of all concert tickets into the hands of Laurier students free of charge. The proceeds from Friday's *Messiah* concert, anticipated to total \$5,000, will go to Doctors Without Borders. Proceeds from Sunday's concert will go to the scholarship fund.

Adults will pay \$10 for tickets to either performance, while students and seniors pay only \$5. Tickets are available at the door, in advance by contacting Carol Raymond at craymond@wlu.ca or by visiting room A204D in Laurier's John Aird Centre between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. from Wednesday to Friday.

To learn about efforts by Doctors Without Borders to help victims of violence in the U.S. and Afghanistan, please visit [www.doctorswithoutborders.org].