

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Quartetfest brings chamber music to K-W, St. Jacobs and Guelph *Festival offers world-class workshops and concert series featuring Penderecki String Quartet*

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Contact: Jerzy Kaplanek
Professor, Faculty of Music
(519) 884-0710 ext. 2648 or jkaplane@wlu.ca

or Michael Strickland
Manager, Media Relations & Information
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3070

WATERLOO (Ont.) – Wilfrid Laurier University is offering local chamber-music lovers a rare opportunity to enjoy some of North America’s most talented performers. Quartetfest, an annual series of workshops and concerts, is attracting established quartets and emerging young artists to the area between May 17 and June 8.

Participants come to celebrate the art of string-quartet playing – one of the most highly developed chamber-music genres, spanning three centuries of musical composition since its beginnings with Franz Joseph Haydn. They’ll attend from Florida State University, New York City, the San Francisco Conservatory, the University of Victoria and Yale University.

The Penderecki String Quartet, Laurier’s world-renowned quartet-in-residence, leads Quartetfest. Its members are this year joined by violist Steven Dann, viola instructor and coordinator of the chamber-music program at the Glenn Gould Professional School of the Royal Conservatory of Music, and by the Colorado Quartet, winners of the Naumberg Chamber Music Award and the Banff International Quartet Competition.

“We’re expecting that the level of performance will be the highest we’ve ever seen at our festival,” said Jerzy Kaplanek, violinist with the Penderecki and member of Laurier’s faculty of music. “We are anticipating an incredibly high quality of performance from this group of Quartetfest participants.”

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Participants will receive extensive training from the faculty artists, through regular coaching, masterclasses and individual instruction. Some of the participants will also compete for \$5,700 in prizes at the NUMUS 2002 Pan-Am Chamber Music Competition taking place on May 30 in Laurier’s Maureen Forrester Recital Hall.

Other highlights include two extravaganza concerts of masterworks by Johannes Brahms at the Church Theatre in St. Jacob’s. Clarinetist Shalom Bard, two-time recipient of the Ontario Arts Council’s prestigious Chalmers Award, will join the Penderecki on May 17. CBC Radio Two will record this concert for future broadcast. On May 22, Dann and the Penderecki will perform Brahms’ “Viola Quintet Op.111 in G Major”.

On May 26th, the Penderecki will team up with the Room To Move Dance Co. from Atlanta, Georgia, promising a remarkable evening of music and dance at Guelph’s River Run Centre. On June 2, the Colorado String Quartet will perform works by Haydn, Schumann and Shostakovich at the Church Theatre.

Concerts, special events and masterclass dates and times are listed below:

Faculty Concerts:

- Friday, May 17 at 8 p.m. – Penderecki String Quartet with Shalom Bard
- Wednesday, May 22 at 8 p.m. – Penderecki String Quartet with Steven Dann
- Sunday, June 2 at 8 p.m. – Colorado String Quartet

Participant Concerts:

- Friday, May 31 at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, June 1 at 7 p.m.
- Friday, June 7 at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, June 8 at 7 p.m.

Special Events:

- Sunday, May 26 at 8 p.m. – NUMUS Concert at the Guelph Spring Festival
- Thursday, May 30 at 7 p.m. – Pan-Am Chamber Music Competition

Masterclasses:

- Tuesday, May 21 at 5 p.m. – Steven Dann, viola
- Friday, May 24 at 5 p.m. – Paul Pulford, violoncello
- Monday, May 27 at 5 p.m. – Jeremy Bell, violin
- Wednesday, May 29 at 5 p.m. – Christine Vlajk, viola
- Monday, June 3 at 2:30 and 5 p.m. – Members of the Colorado String Quartet
- Thursday, June 6 at 5 p.m. – Jerzy Kaplanek, violin

Faculty and participant series concerts will be held at The Church Theatre in St. Jacobs. Admission to faculty series concerts is \$18 for adults and \$10 for students/seniors, while tickets for participant concerts cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for students/seniors. For tickets, please contact (519) 664-1134.

The 2002 Pan-Am Chamber Music Competition will be held in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students. Masterclasses will be held in room A318 of the John Aird Centre and admission is free.

For more information about Quartetfest, please visit Laurier's Web site at www.wlu.ca/~wwwmusic/quartetfest.shtml.