

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Laurier to honour internationally renowned musician**

*Loreena McKennitt to receive honorary Doctor of Letters degree on December 1, 2002*

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University will recognize one of Canada’s most prominent entertainers by bestowing an honorary degree on singer/composer Loreena McKennitt during its fall convocation ceremony.

“In addition to her successful music career, her entrepreneurial accomplishments as well as her community leadership initiatives form the basis for her nomination,” said president and vice-chancellor Robert G. Rosehart.

McKennitt will receive an honorary Doctor of Letters and address graduands shortly after 1:15 p.m. on Sunday, December 1 at the university’s Athletic Complex.

Transcending the folk genre with which she is most readily identified, McKennitt’s “eclectic Celtic” music has captivated listeners worldwide. Beginning with a nine-song cassette she sold from the trunk of her car, she has gone on to create six full-length studio albums and a two-disc live recording which have seen her catalogue sell nearly 14 million copies worldwide.

While she is an astounding self-made music phenomenon, McKennitt is also distinguished by her community values. Based in Stratford, Ont., the musician is the driving force behind the revitalization of a local schoolhouse dating from the late 1920s. With an eye to maintaining the educational function of the building, McKennitt has overseen the creation of the Falstaff Family Centre – a community space where people of all ages learn and grow.