

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Bartulis Fest showcases the best of Lithuania's classical music *Festival will premiere original Lithuanian work in Waterloo and Toronto*

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WATERLOO – One of Lithuania's most notable composers will be working with musicians and performers at Wilfrid Laurier University as they prepare for the Canadian debut of his music. Vidmantas Bartulis will help them prepare for a four-day festival called Bartulis Fest.

Bartulis and Piotr Grella-Mozejko, a Canadian composer of Lithuanian descent, are the featured composers in the festival organized by Laurier, NUMUS (New Music Society) and Ergo Projects. The program includes panel discussions of Bartulis's work and concerts in Waterloo and Toronto.

"We are extremely fortunate and excited to have two such experts in Lithuanian music working with our students," said Jeremy Bell, member of Laurier's Penderecki String Quartet and artistic director of NUMUS. "Bartulis is Lithuania's pre-eminent composer, known for his universality of genres and styles. His work has been described as 'introspective and humorous' as well as 'imbued with poetry.'"

Bartulis is the author of chamber and symphonic, instrumental and vocal, stage and studio, theatrical and cinematic, electronic and multimedia music performed throughout Europe. In 1996 he was recognized as the Best Theatre Composer in Lithuania and in 1998 he was awarded the National Lithuanian Prize, given annually to the country's best composer.

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Grella-Mozejko lives in Edmonton, where he is president of the Edmonton Composers' Concert Society and producer of the New Music Alberta concert series. His compositions have garnered numerous international awards.

During Bartulis Fest, Jerzy Kaplanek and Christine Vljak (both members of the Penderecki String Quartet), along with the Wilfrid Laurier University Chamber Orchestra, will premiere Grella-Mozejko's new work for double concerto for violin, viola and 15 solo strings. The creation of this concerto was funded by the Canada Council for the Arts and SOCAN Foundation.

Other Laurier performers and faculty participating in Bartulis Fest include soprano Kimberl-Enns Hildebrand, and master pianists Beth de Sousa and Anya Alexeyev.

The Bartulis Festival schedule includes the following events:

Saturday, March 8, at 8 p.m.

- Concert: Wilfrid Laurier University, Maureen Forrester Recital Hall.

Sunday, March 9, at 5 p.m.

- Concert: St. George-the-Martyr Church, 197 John Street, Toronto.

Monday, March 10, at 2 p.m.

- Panel Discussion: Musical Source and Genre in Global Culture with composers Bartulis, Grella-Mozejko and Peter Hatch. Wilfrid Laurier University, room A318 of the John Aird Centre.

Tuesday, March 11, noon

- Concert: Wilfrid Laurier University, Maureen Forrester Recital Hall.

For more information on Bartulis Fest or to reserve tickets, members of the public can call (519) 896-3663 or send an e-mail to info@numus.on.ca.