

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
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## **German drama group explores the many personalities of Mozart** *Play uses music and drama to present Mozart – the romantic, the comic and the dramatic*

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WATERLOO –Laurier’s German drama group will present a play entitled *Wer war Mozart?* on November 21 and 22 in Laurier’s theatre auditorium. The production will explore the many personalities of the renowned composer, seeking to answer the question musicians, writers and researchers have been asking for more than two centuries – who was Mozart?

Director Alexandra Zimmermann, of Laurier’s department of languages and literatures, says she finds the different explanations of his personality quite fascinating. “The show tries to depict his personality by splitting it up into three different theatrical characters: a romantic Mozart, a comic Mozart and a dramatic Mozart.” Audiences will discover which personality they agree with and, in the final skit, will decide which one is their preferred version of the cultural icon.

The show incorporates a medley of musical and dramatic elements. Highlights of the show will include the performance of arias from his famous operas *The Magic Flute*, *Così fan tutte* and *Don Giovanni*. There’s also a danced interpretation of the minuet from *Don Giovanni*.

The dramatic texts used in the show include scenes from Peter Shaffer’s play *Amadeus*, one of Mozart’s famous letters to his cousin and a stage adaptation of Eduard Mörike’s novella, *Mozart on the Way to Prague*.

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The cast includes students of German and music (both voice and piano) who have worked for weeks interpreting and memorizing the German dialogue. Tenor Thomas Leslie will play the role of Mörrike's Mozart, soprano Andrea Nacarrato will play Eugenie, a young lady who is deeply touched by her brief encounter with Mozart, and pianist Sarah Anton will perform as a countess on a historic fortepiano.

The play is sponsored by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Austrian Cultural Forum, an organization that attempts to enhance the appreciation of Austrian cultural achievements. All money raised by the play will go towards production costs.

Performances will be held Friday at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. and Saturday at 8 p.m. General admission is \$5 and \$3 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by contacting Zimmermann at (519) 884-1970 ext. 3011.