

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



International leader in music therapy to speak at symposium *Tony Wigram will discuss trends in Europe and projects from around the world*

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WATERLOO – An internationally renowned researcher in the field of music therapy will discuss international trends during the keynote address at a symposium being offered at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo and repeated in Toronto.

Tony Wigram, head of PhD studies in music therapy at Denmark's Aalborg University, will deliver a talk entitled Evidence-based Music Therapy Research for the Health Disciplines at a symposium with the same name. His talk will outline music therapy trends in Europe and introduce projects underway around the world.

The symposium and talk will first be held at 7 p.m. on April 5 in Laurier's Maureen Forrester Recital Hall (MFRH). They will be repeated at 7 p.m. on April 7 at Toronto's Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre.

"We decided to offer the symposium in these two locations because of Tony Wigram's incredible stature in the world of music therapy," said Heidi Ahonen-Eerikäinen, inaugural director of the Laurier Centre for Music Therapy Research (LCMTR). "Canada is just now starting to recognize music therapy's place in the world of health and there's a great deal that health professionals can learn from him."

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Wigram is a chair holder and head of PhD studies in music therapy at the Institute for Music and Music Therapy at the University of Aalborg in Denmark. He is also head music therapist at Harper House Children's Service in Hertfordshire, England; research associate at the University of Melbourne; visiting professor at Anglia Polytechnique University in Cambridge, England; and an adjunct professor with universities in Belgium, Italy and Spain.

He has published extensively in his areas of specialization. These include music therapy diagnosis and assessment, vibroacoustic therapy, Rett syndrome, applied improvisational skills and music therapy education,

While at Laurier, Wigram will also deliver a music therapy masterclass. It will be held in the MFRH from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on April 6. Members of the public are invited to watch him work with the students. Admission is \$25 for members of the general public, \$15 for most students and free to Laurier students.

Laurier is currently the home of the only master's program in music therapy in Canada. The LCMTR was established last year to encourage a wide range of research and educational initiatives. It involves and ultimately benefits undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate students, as well as music therapy professionals and researchers, in music therapy and allied disciplines.

Laurier's faculty of music offers a wide range of music programs, from performance, composition and music education, to theory, history and church music. With a limited enrolment of 300 undergraduate students, classes remain small and students receive a high level of interaction with nationally and internationally renowned scholars, performers and composers.