

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



### Renowned baritone conducts master class for Laurier students

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WATERLOO – Sir Thomas Allen, world-renowned English baritone, will conduct a master class with six senior students from Laurier’s voice program on Monday, April 2 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall.

Allen is also scheduled to sing a recital at the Perimeter Institute For Theoretical Physics in Waterloo on Sunday April 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Knighted in 1999, Allen has performed on the world’s great opera and concert stages. His film work includes the 2006 release, *Mrs. Henderson Presents*. In 2006, he celebrated the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his debut with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, where he has sung over 40 roles. Also in 2006, he celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his debut with the Metropolitan Opera, New York.

“Allen’s vast experience as a performer in opera, concert and recital offers our students a richness and breadth which exceeds anything else they have encountered in their education thus far,” says Kimberly Barber, a voice professor at Laurier. “He has great intelligence but his performances never seem calculated. Rather, his work is always immediate and organic.”

Allen’s reputation as a teacher is legendary, adds Barber. “A friend of mine in England saw him working with young people and said it was stunning. Despite all his achievements, Sir Thomas Allen is self-effacing and humble. He treats students as colleagues, his passion is infectious and enabling. He possesses all the talents of a great educator.”

The event is free and open to the public.