

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



More than 120 high school band students to attend Laurier workshop

For Immediate Release

**September 20, 2007
61-07**

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WATERLOO – More than 120 band students selected from 27 southwestern Ontario high schools will attend Wilfrid Laurier University on September 25 and 26 to take part in the Central Ontario Band Workshop.

During the two-day workshop, students will attend master classes led by wind and percussion faculty and students from Laurier's music department, sectionals run by high school music teachers and a performance by Laurier students and faculty.

"This event provides an important opportunity to recognize the students in our high schools who love music making," said Michael Purves-Smith, associate professor in Laurier's Faculty of Music.

In addition to the classes, students will also participate in intensive ensemble rehearsals under the direction of well-known Canadian conductor Fraser Linklater, an assistant professor of music at the University of Manitoba who has also conducted the National Youth Band of Canada and directs the Canadian Wind Conductors Development Program. The rehearsals are in preparation for a public performance put on by the students at the end of the workshop.

"Working with Fraser Linklater, meeting the K-W Symphony Orchestra musicians and playing challenging new repertoire in a large ensemble at Laurier is very exciting for the

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students,” said Susan Follows, a music teacher at Southwood Secondary School and co-chair of the workshop’s planning committee. “The Central Ontario Band Workshop is important because it not only inspires young musicians, but it also brings the musical community from this region together.”

Bringing new rehearsal techniques learned at the workshop back to their high school music classes is another main benefit for students, according to Cathy Baer, music department head at Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute and co-chair of the workshop committee.

The public performance takes place on Wednesday, September 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Laurier theatre auditorium. Laurier’s celebrated Penderecki String Quartet and the well-known trombone quartet, Slide by Slide, will also perform. The concert is free and open to the public.

The Central Ontario Band Workshop began in 1980.

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