

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
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Laurier joins K-W Symphony Youth Orchestra for first joint performance

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WATERLOO — The Laurier Symphony Orchestra and the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Youth Orchestra (KWSYO) will join forces for the first time in a concert at Kitchener’s Centre in the Square on March 8.

The *Out of this World* concert will showcase the combined 120-member orchestra’s performance of Holst’s *The Planets*. The Laurier Symphony Orchestra will perform Stravinsky’s *Symphony in Three Movements*, and the KWSYO will perform Debussy’s *Premiere Rhapsodie* with soloist Afendi Yusuf.

“For the students to play in an ensemble this large is a rare experience,” said Paul Pulford, Laurier professor and associate dean of the Faculty of Music. “Together, the two orchestra programs represent an important continuum that starts with youth strings, progresses to the youth sinfonia and moves up to the senior youth orchestra and the Laurier Symphony Orchestra.”

Although the event marks the first public collaboration between the two organizations, they share many ties. Both orchestras are conducted by Pulford, and a number of musicians have played for both. The KWSYO currently has a dozen Laurier music students, graduates and future Laurier students as members. Performers range in age from 12-24 years old.

Pulford selected *The Planets* — an astrologically inspired seven-movement orchestral suite that was first performed in 1918 — as a key piece for the performance.

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“It’s a great piece to collaborate on,” said Pulford. “It’s considered a groundbreaking piece of music for its time, and it’s a major work that couldn’t be played by either orchestra individually because of the amount of resources it requires.”

The performance, which Pulford promises will be a “sonic experience,” takes place at 2 p.m. on March 8 at the Centre in the Square. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by contacting the Centre in the Square box office at (519) 578-1570 or www.kwsymphony.on.ca.

For photo and interview opportunities contact Paul Pulford: (519) 884-0710 ext. 2692 or paulpulford@rogers.com. The full 120-member orchestra will rehearse March 2, 4 and 6 from 4-6 p.m. in room A318 at Laurier.