

**For Immediate Release  
September 28, 2009 | 79-09**

**Contact:**

Susan Follows, Integrated Arts Teacher  
Eastwood Collegiate Institute  
519-743-8265

Kevin Crowley, Associate Director  
News and Editorial Services  
519-884-0710 ext. 3070 or [kcrowley@wlu.ca](mailto:kcrowley@wlu.ca)

## **More than 125 high school band students to attend Laurier workshop**

WATERLOO – More than 125 band students selected from southwestern Ontario high schools will attend Wilfrid Laurier University Sept. 29 - 30 to take part in the Central Ontario Band Workshop. This year's workshop will be led by Colin Clarke, founder and artistic director of the Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra.

During the two-day workshop, students will attend master classes led by wind and percussion faculty and students from Laurier's Faculty of Music and workshops hosted by high school music teachers from the surrounding areas.

"This event provides an important opportunity to recognize the students in our high schools who love music making," said Dr. Lee Willingham, 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 Colin Clarke as they prepare for a public performance at the end of the workshop. Clarke is founder and artistic director of the Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra, a project he began as a student in high school that is now in its 19<sup>th</sup> season. Clarke, a recipient of the Clifford Evans Award for Conducting, has a passion for music education and outreach and maintains a commitment to working with young people and the community.

According to organizers, 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. Students gain from the workshop experience, and by bringing new rehearsal techniques learned at the workshop back to their high school music classes.

The public performance takes place Wednesday, Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. in Laurier's Theatre Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public.

The Central Ontario Band Workshop began in 1980. This year's workshop is sponsored by Laurier Continuing Studies and the Laurier Faculty of Music. Sponsoring district school boards include: Waterloo Region, Waterloo Catholic, Upper Grand, Thames Valley, Huron-Perth Catholic and Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic.

For further information, please visit the 2009 [Central Ontario Band Workshop](#) site.