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Wilfrid Laurier University bringing world-class choir to Kitchener

WATERLOO – The Polish Chamber Choir of Gdansk, one of the world’s great choral ensembles, is coming to Kitchener Monday, Feb. 1. The choir will perform in a recital hosted by Laurier’s Faculty of Music and the Laurier Centre for Music in the Community.

The Chamber Choir of Gdansk is performing in Toronto this week as part of a festival celebrating the choral works of contemporary composer Krzysztof Penderecki, who will conduct the Toronto performances. (The Penderecki String Quartet, resident at Laurier, is named after him.) Penderecki regards this chamber choir as his favourite; they recently recorded a CD of his music, which is garnering great reviews.

The Chamber Choir of Gdansk’s visit marks its North American debut. They will return home to Poland the day after their recital in Kitchener.

The program in Kitchener features many composers, ranging from the Renaissance to the contemporary, including Penderecki, Hakenberger and Chopin.

“Because we’re all connected, the quartet with the composer, we started speaking about the choir’s visit to Toronto and all of us thought it would be a great idea to extend the collaboration,” said Jerzy Kaplanek, violin professor at Laurier and Penderecki String Quartet member.

“Kitchener-Waterloo is arguably one of the richest choral communities in Canada—we have several professional-calibre choirs—and this chamber choir’s visit provides a different cultural context for listeners of choral music in the area. The acoustics of the venue are outstanding.”

The recital will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 66 Shanley Street, Kitchener. Tickets are \$20 (general) and \$5 (students). Tickets are available at the door or by calling 519-884-0710 ext. 2150.