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Conrads donate \$1 million to support Institute for Music Therapy Research

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University will proudly unveil the newly named Manfred & Penny Conrad Institute for Music Therapy Research on Monday, April 19 in recognition of the Conrads' \$1-million gift to the Faculty of Music.

The Conrad gift is the largest individual donation ever given to Laurier's Faculty of Music. It will support the important research and therapeutic work done within the faculty's music therapy research centre. Additionally, the Conrads have created an annual scholarship to be awarded to a Laurier student who is studying music therapy at the graduate level.

"This remarkable \$1-million gift from Manfred and Penny Conrad to support the music therapy research centre will ensure Laurier is at the forefront of music therapy research in Canada and around the world," said Charles Morrison, dean of the Faculty of Music. "This historic donation promises to help so many people as Laurier researchers continue to better understand the therapeutic powers of music."

The work conducted within the Manfred & Penny Conrad Institute for Music Therapy Research helps those suffering from Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease, promotes healing for victims of trauma and abuse, assists those with developmental, behavioural, mental health and communication challenges, and helps patients requiring critical or palliative care.

Members of the media are invited to attend the gift celebration on Monday, April 19 starting at 10:30 a.m. on the second floor of Laurier's John Aird Centre. Interviews can be arranged with Manfred and Penny Conrad, and with Sherry Bedirian, who has experienced great benefits from participating in Laurier's music therapy program and will be presenting during the event.