

NEWS RELEASE



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CONTACT

Lisa Fanjoy, Manager, Continuing Studies
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710 ext. 2149 or lfanjoy@wlu.ca

Kevin Crowley, Director, Communications & Public Affairs
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710 ext. 3070 or kcrowley@wlu.ca

More than 100 high school band students to attend Laurier workshop

WATERLOO – About 120 band students selected from southwestern Ontario high schools will attend Wilfrid Laurier University Sept. 27 to 28 to take part in the Central Ontario Band Workshop. The workshop will culminate with a group performance conducted by Mark Hopkins, conductor and associate professor at Acadia University.

During the two-day workshop, students will attend master classes led by Laurier’s wind and percussion faculty as well as students from Laurier’s Faculty of Music. High school music teachers from the surrounding area will also host additional workshops.

“Playing in an ensemble is all about community – about working together to create something bigger and better than the sum of its parts,” said Laurier Dean of Music Glen Carruthers. “By carefully selecting students from a variety of terrific high school programs, we help students learn by working together with their musical peers. The result is bound to be personally and musically satisfying – as well as a good time!”

In addition to the classes, students will also participate in intensive ensemble rehearsals under Hopkins’ direction as they prepare for a public performance at the end of the workshop. Hopkins is responsible for teaching undergraduate and graduate conducting and music education courses at Acadia’s School of Music. He also leads the Wind Ensemble and oversees Wind Music Studies and Performance programs, and is founding director and lecturer of the Acadia University Summer Wind Conducting Symposium. In addition to his academic duties, Hopkins’ professional work as a conductor spans the full range of ensembles and genres, and he is in demand as a guest conductor and music education consultant.

According to organizers, the Central Ontario Band Workshop is important because it not only inspires young musicians, but it also brings Waterloo Region’s musical community together. Students gain experience from attending the workshops and by bringing techniques learned at the workshop back to their high school music classes.

The public performance takes place Wednesday, Sept. 28, at 6 p.m. in Laurier’s Theatre Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public.

The Central Ontario Band Workshop began in 1980. Laurier Continuing Studies and the Laurier Faculty of Music host the event. Participating district school boards include: Waterloo Region, Waterloo Catholic, Upper Grand, Avon Maitland, Huron-Perth Catholic and Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic.

For more information, please visit www.wlu.ca/page.php?grp_id=160&p=14706.