



Kimberly Barber, Administrative Coordinator: Opera
Faculty of Music
519-884-0710 ext. 2505 or kbarber@wlu.ca

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

OCT. 25, 2012 | 146-12

Opera Laurier production filled with deception

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University's Faculty of Music presents a handful of provocative excerpts from iconic operas in a performance titled "Mistaken Identities, Disguises & Other Operatic Misunderstandings." Performances take place Friday, Nov. 9 and Saturday, Nov. 10 at 8 p.m. in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall.

Musical Director Emily Hamper and Stage Director Erik Thor lead 16 Opera Laurier students through six excerpts focusing on the theme of deception from the following classic operas: Gioacchino Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*; W.A. Mozart's *Così fan tutte* and *La Clemenza di Tito*; Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel*; Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Emmanuel Chabrier's *L'étoile*. The selections span from the tragic to the comic, and offer something for everyone.

Opera Laurier consists of voice performance students enrolled in "The Practice of Opera" course and dedicated student volunteers. Every year, Opera Laurier puts on a production of excerpts in the fall and a full opera in the spring.

"These productions have been an important part of Opera Laurier students' learning trajectory since the program's inception," said Professor Kimberly Barber, administrative coordinator of Opera at Laurier. "The fall production, including the choice bits from major pieces from the operatic canon, is the first of many opportunities for our developing young singers to take the stage as actors. This vast and all-encompassing art form is for many of them new, terrifying and exciting, as is the chance to get the first real taste of a potential career that is finally within their field of view."

Tickets are free for Laurier students, \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Contact Kathryn Ladano at kladano@wlu.ca or 519-884-0710 ext. 2150 for ticket information.

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