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Edwin Outwater conducts Laurier symphony orchestra

WATERLOO – Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Music Director Edwin Outwater will conduct the Wilfrid Laurier University Symphony Orchestra Saturday, Nov. 24. The ambitious program, which begins at 8 p.m. in the Theatre Auditorium on Laurier's Waterloo campus, features music by Chabrier, Saint-Saëns, Barber and Shostakovich, and two Faculty of Music Concerto Competition winners: violinists Laila Haight and Victoria Melik.

"This event helps bring our two organizations, which already have a close relationship, even closer," said Laurier Faculty of Music Dean Glen Carruthers. "It benefits everyone involved, including our audience, but the primary beneficiaries are our students, and that makes everyone happy."

Resident conductor of the San Francisco Symphony from 2001 to 2006, Outwater served as the music director of the youth orchestra there, leading all of their concerts and a tour of Europe. He also implemented education programs that received the Leonard Bernstein Award for Excellence in Educational Programming. In Kitchener-Waterloo, Outwater has redesigned the symphony's education series and he continues to appear frequently with youth orchestras throughout the United States and across the world.

"When working with youth, the rehearsals are even more important than the concert," said Outwater, who worked with the symphony in the weeks leading up to the concert as a guest conductor-in-residence. "My goals are never modest ... I'm excited to see how far we can go in November."

Program:

- *España*, Emmanuel Chabrier (1841-1894)
- *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, Op. 28*, Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921), featuring Victoria Melik, violin
- *Concerto for Violin, Op. 14*, Samuel Barber (1910-1981), featuring Laila Haight, violin
 - o Allegro
- *Symphony No. 12 in D minor, Op. 112, "The Year of 1917,"* Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)
 - o I Revolutionary Petrograd
 - o II Raziliv
 - o III Aurora
 - o IV The Dawn of Humanity

Carruthers said Shostakovich's "*The Year of 1917*," dedicated to the memory of Lenin, has always been controversial in the West. "Its appeal is immediate, though, and the work is laden with social and political meanings. Performed infrequently, it's a tremendous virtuosic vehicle for the Laurier orchestra."

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors, and free for Laurier students. For more information, email kladano@wlu.ca or phone 519-884-0710 ext. 2150.