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## Laurier announces new Master of Arts in Community Music

WATERLOO – The Faculty of Music at Wilfrid Laurier University is introducing a new Master of Arts in Community Music, representing the university's second leading-edge graduate music program.

"Ten years ago, the Faculty of Music launched the first Master of Music Therapy program in Canada. Now the Faculty of Music is launching the country's first Master of Arts in Community Music," said Glen Carruthers, dean of the Faculty of Music. "We've worked hard to select areas in which we can excel at the graduate level, and this program will be a brilliant complement to our well-established music therapy programs."

The Master of Arts in Community Music is a part-time, interdisciplinary program that balances theory and practice for the development of leadership skills in community music. The program can be completed in six terms and is designed to attract community leaders who are – or plan to be – engaged in creating or making music with diverse populations in schools, places of worship, private studios, seniors' homes, community centres, etc. Students complete an applied community service placement as part of a capstone project. Students may apply now to begin the program in September 2013.

The program is already garnering considerable attention.

"When we posted details of the program to our website I received my first email about it within the hour," said Carruthers. "Certainly, the idea behind the program is that music plays a pivotal role in communities around the world, and our program will help students become community leaders wherever their musical careers may take them."

The faculty aims to recruit students locally, regionally and internationally and has designed admission requirements to accommodate a diverse range of students. Carruthers hopes that students will bring to the program a wide spectrum of interests, abilities and experiences in different genres, and that the program will be enriched by sharing musical traditions from around the globe.

"The new masters program is a perfect fit to enhance the research activity at the Laurier Centre for Music in the Community, and thereby enriching the musical life of our community at large," said Lee Willingham, director of the Laurier Centre for Music in the Community.

Community Music Therapy, which could build on synergies between the two graduate music programs (dealing with music in clinical and community settings respectively), is an area that the faculty is well positioned to explore.

The Faculty of Music now houses the Manfred and Penny Conrad Institute for Music Therapy Research and undergraduate and graduate programs in music therapy, as well as the Laurier Centre for Music in the Community and a graduate program in Community Music.

Program requirements, an application form, and other information is available at [www.wlu.ca/music/grad](http://www.wlu.ca/music/grad).