



Jerzy Kaplanek, Associate Professor
Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty of Music
519-884-0710 ext. 2648 or jkaplanek@wlu.ca

Lori Chalmers Morrison, Acting Director
Communications & Public Affairs, Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710 ext. 3067 or lchalmersmorrison@wlu.ca

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Laurier hosts chamber music festival, QuartetFest '14

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University invites chamber music lovers to enjoy the 22nd annual QuartetFest, May 28 to June 10, featuring performances by the Penderecki String Quartet, Chiara String Quartet, Gallery Players of Niagara, Skyros Quartet, and student participants.

A series of eight concerts and multiple intensive chamber music workshops will be held throughout QuartetFest, a non-profit event that helps young musicians from around the world refine their talents.

Four student quartets from Chile, New York State and Ontario will be working with this year's teaching ensembles and performing in three young artist concerts. In 2014, Laurier's Vogl Piano Quartet took home the Penderecki String Quartet Chamber Music Prize of a full QuartetFest participant scholarship.

"This event is about allowing musicians and audiences to enjoy their love of chamber music," said Jerzy Kaplanek, an associate music professor at Laurier and a violinist with the Penderecki. "We are trying to connect the musical community around us and at large."

The concerts will be held at the Kitchener Waterloo Chamber Music Society or the Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo. Masterclasses begin May 31 in the John Aird Centre, room A318, on Laurier's Waterloo campus. They are free and open to the public. Visit www.quartetfest.ca for a full calendar of events, locations, and times.

Tickets for a QuartetFest pass are \$50 for students, \$70 for seniors, and \$90 for all others. Passes and individual tickets are available at the door, by calling 519-886-1673, or visiting <http://www.ticketscene.ca/kwcms>.