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Laurier to host Battle of the Somme centennial anniversary lecture and symphony performance

WATERLOO – The Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS) is presenting a public lecture Nov. 16 and partnering with the Faculty of Music to present a symphony orchestra performance Nov. 18 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the Battle of the Somme.

“The Battle of the Somme was the longest and one of the most deadly battles in British and Canadian military history, lasting from July 1 to Nov. 18 1916,” said Mark Humphries, associate history professor and director of the LCMSDS. “The carnage had a profound but often unseen effect on our culture as is clear in the music that its survivors composed. At the hundredth anniversary of the battle’s end, on the day when Canadians took Desire Trench, we will reflect on the battle’s legacy through history and music.”

The LCMSDS will present “The Legacy of the Somme 100 Years On” Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. Humphries will explore the legacy of the Battle of the Somme and the First World War in popular culture and how our conventional image of the Somme is at odds with the ways in which those who fought chose to remember the battle. The lecture will take place at LCMSDS, 232 King St. N. in Waterloo. The event is free and open to the public.

The Faculty of Music will present the Laurier Symphony Orchestra performing with guest soloists Eric Kavcic and Janet Lu Nov. 18 at 8 p.m. The Sweden-based Canadian conductor Glenn Mossop will be the guest conductor for the performance. Most of the repertoire that will be performed was written in tribute to, or in memory of, those who died in the Battle of the Somme and the First World War. The performance takes place at the Wilfrid Laurier University Theatre Auditorium on Laurier’s Waterloo campus. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the performance begins at 8 p.m. Tickets can be [purchased online](#).

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