



Waterloo Region  
District School Board



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**May 14, 2008**

## **THE KITCHENER-WATERLOO SYMPHONY JOINS LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO DELIVER ROBUST MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

KITCHENER, Ontario – The **Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony** (KWS) announces a long-term partnership with the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) and the Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) offering an exciting and comprehensive music education program to Waterloo Region.

Robert Astley, Chair of the KWS Board is “pleased at the partnership we are building between the symphony and the school boards as it provides a vital link in delivering these essential programs into the schools and communities.”

Through community consultations with teachers, students and administrators the KWS sought to identify how best it could meet the needs of the school boards in terms of music education. A comprehensive three-year program for School Concerts was developed in-line with the Ministry of Ontario’s education curriculum. This cycle commencing in 2009-2010, will offer one program for grades one to three and another for grades three to six each season, ensuring that each student is engaged at the appropriate level and enjoys the maximum benefit throughout their elementary school years.

Linda Fabi, Director of Education for the Waterloo Region District School Board says “We are grateful that the KWS is able offer enhanced support. Teachers’ guides, an interactive website and school visits from musicians before and after each concert make the KWS a vital education resource for our community.”

“Being able to utilize the high calibre of the KWS musicians offers the students in our region a dynamic learning opportunity, all the while developing their own sense of accomplishment and pride,” says Bruce Rodrigues of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board.

The KWS has committed resources to these important initiatives including the establishment of two new staff positions. Formerly the Acting General Manager, **Christopher Sharpe** becomes the **Director of Education and Community Programs**, responsible for directing the planning and implementation of all education and community activities. In addition, he will act as liaison to the School Boards, schools and universities and represent the KWS in its advocacy work in the area of music education. Mr. Sharpe joined the KWS in 1979 as Associate Principal Cello and says “We are proud to have a key role in shaping the future of our children and through the joint efforts of the KWS and the school boards, are confident that our programs will enrich music education in our community and foster a lifelong commitment to the arts.”

The KWS also welcomes **Nancy Kidd** to the newly created position of **Educator in Residence**, offering her expertise as an advisor and consultant. A recipient of the 2007 K-W Arts Mentor Award, Ms. Kidd recently concluded her 30-year career as a music educator with the WRDSB and looks forward to this exciting new challenge.

“It gives me great pleasure to welcome these two dedicated people to our team. With their passion and energy I have every confidence that these new initiatives will establish a new benchmark for successful education programs,” remarks Genevieve Twomey, KWS’ Executive Director.

“I’m overjoyed at the progress we have made in my first season as Music Director,” says Edwin Outwater, who’s programs received the 2004 Leonard Bernstein award for excellence in educational programming, “from my personal experience having a strong music education program which shares the beauty of music is critical in building and evolving young audiences. “

Under the umbrella of Music Education, other new KWS programs for high school students are Symphony @ Work and Design A Concert, returning favourites include Kinderconcerts (age three months to four years), Youth Orchestra Program (age seven to 24) and Generations Series (age ten and up). Collectively, these programs offer a learning continuum for students of all ages.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony enhances the quality of life in the communities which it engages and is one of the most valued cultural gems for our region. Consisting of 52 full time musicians, a nationally recognized Youth Orchestra, and performing over 60 concerts per season, the Symphony continues the tradition of presenting great music to audiences across the region and beyond. For more information visit us online at [www.kwsymphony.on.ca](http://www.kwsymphony.on.ca).

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 100,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 52 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 30,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education first begun in 1836.

– 30 –

**For more information, please contact:**

**Tracey Jirak**, Public Relations & Marketing Associate  
Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony  
519-745-4711 ext.288  
[tjirak@kwsymphony.on.ca](mailto:tjirak@kwsymphony.on.ca)

**Margaret Coleman**, Manager of Communications  
Waterloo Region District School Board  
519-570-0003 ext. 4137  
[Margaret\\_Coleman@wrdsb.on.ca](mailto:Margaret_Coleman@wrdsb.on.ca)

**John P. Shewchuk**, Senior Manager: Public Affairs / Executive Officer  
Waterloo Catholic District School Board  
Tel: (519) 578-3660  
[john.shewchuk@wcdsb.ca](mailto:john.shewchuk@wcdsb.ca)