



**WARTBURG COLLEGE**

— PRESENTS —

THE PLAY OF

# Herod

**December 1971**

# The Play of Herod

THE PLAY OF HEROD, as presented today at Wartburg College, consists of two medieval musical dramas which appear in the twelfth-century French manuscript known as the "Fleury play-book." These works were written to appeal to the villagers who lived near the monastic church of Fleury; they were performed by the men and boys of the choir school in the chancel of that church.

The first of the plays, THE REPRESENTATION OF HEROD, is performed here in its entirety; the second, THE SLAYING OF THE CHILDREN, has been abbreviated. Both deal with the events narrated in the second and third chapters of Matthew.

Liturgical drama of the medieval period celebrates familiar events. Its dramatic excitement lies not in the revelation of character nor the exfoliation of plot, common in plays prepared for secular theatres, but in the vivid embellishment of familiar events and personages.

These plays are more like a Fourth of July parade than the conventional script prepared for a proscenium stage: The costumes are bright—gaudy, in fact—and quite obviously homemade. The action is stylized, pared to a minimum; the characteristic action is the parade itself: up and down the aisles, across the chancel, around the creche. The dialogue, elevated to its ultimate sonority, is sung throughout.

THE PLAY OF HEROD was first performed in this country in 1963 at The Cloisters, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, in the reconstructed chancel of a twelfth-century Spanish chapel. It has since been performed in numerous churches throughout the United States. It has been performed at Wartburg once before—in 1967.

Herod, a CHRISTMAS AT WARTBURG PRODUCTION, is Wartburg's gift to the greater community of Waverly, Waterloo and Cedar Falls.

# Cast

CRUCIFER – Denis Huston

ARCHANGEL – Ron Winter

ANGELS – Janet Droegmiller, Gayle Hartwig, Kris Haugen,  
Janell Johansen, Charyl Kirchmann, Londa Olson,  
Janice Ottmar, Rebecca Platte, Linda Reines,  
Sandra Schrafer

MARY – Trudy Carter

JOSEPH – Warren Jacobs

SHEPHERDS – Sue Foltz, Judy Goehring

MIDWIVES – Becky Myer, Sandra Jo Fredrickson

KINGS – Tom England, Allan Fuller, Phil Tange

ATTENDANTS TO THE KINGS – Steve Kahler, Dave Thurman,  
Mike Clemens

KING HEROD – Allan Wendland

ARCHELAUS, HIS SON – Dean Dietz

THE ARMIGER – Brad Carter

SOLDIERS OF HEROD – Duane Davis, John Hoover,  
Jeff Jakober, Kurt Ullrich

COURTIERS – John Hoover, Kurt Ullrich

SCRIBES – Duane Davis, Jeff Pregler

MOTHERS – Mindy Barnes, Dixie Clefish, Beth Kapp,  
Becki Loots, Barb Milnes, Terri Shaver,  
Jill Smith

INNOCENTS – Julie Bartlett, Mike Clemens, Denis Huston,  
Steve Kahler, Kathleen McDonald, Shawn McNamera,  
Julie Mennenga, Mark Miller, Karin Moe,  
Denise Nolte, Renee Petersen, Dave Thurman

INSTRUMENTALISTS – Recorder: Rebecca Strottman;

Oboe: Kris Pohlmann;

Viola: Cheryl Buecksler;

Bells: Susan Klopfer;

Organ: Kirstie Felland

The company presenting THE PLAY OF HEROD is composed of the Wartburg Castle Singers, members of the Wartburg Chamber Players, and children selected from the sixth grade music classes of Waverly-Shell Rock schools.

The children have been prepared by Sue Foltz. The set was designed by John Hoover and constructed by members of Castle Singers. Costumes were prepared by Dixie Clefisch and members of Castle Singers. Londa Olson was in charge of make-up and Gayle Hartwig was in charge of properties, both assisted by members of Castle Singers. The cover design has been prepared by Charles E. Frelund. Castle Singers are directed by Franklin E. Williams.

Christmas at Wartburg