

THE DR. LEE NELSON, CONDUCTOR  
**WARTBURG**  
CHOIR

WHERE  
*Love*  
ABIDES



# 2018 MIDWEST TOUR

**Friday, March 23, 7:30 p.m.**

*Featuring the Kasson-Mantorville  
High School Choir*

Kasson-Mantorville High School  
Kasson, Minn.

**Saturday, March 24, 7:30 p.m.**

*Featuring the Shattuck-St. Mary's  
School Choir*

Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour  
Faribault, Minn.

**Sunday, March 25, 3 p.m.**

*A Celebration of Song: Featuring  
the Wartburg Choir, Iowa State  
Singers, and Luther College  
Nordic Choir*

Orchestra Hall  
Minneapolis

**Sunday, April 15, 4 p.m.**

Home Concert  
Wartburg Chapel  
Waverly, Iowa

**Friday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.**

*Featuring the Craig High School Choir*

Craig High School  
Janesville, Wis.

**Saturday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.**

*Featuring the Lyons Township  
High School Varsity Choir*

Saint Luke Church  
Chicago

**Sunday, April 22, 7 p.m.**

*Featuring the Concordia Lutheran  
High School Choir*

Trinity English Lutheran Church  
Fort Wayne, Ind.

**Monday, April 23, 7:30 p.m.**

*Featuring the Pioneer High School  
A Cappella Choir*

Zion Lutheran Church  
Ann Arbor, Mich.

**Tuesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Akron, Ohio

**Thursday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.**

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
Dublin, Ohio

**Friday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Manchester, Mo.

**Saturday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.**

Atonement Lutheran Church  
Overland Park, Kan.

**Sunday, April 29, 4 p.m.**

*Featuring the Ankeny  
High School Choirs*

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Ankeny, Iowa



The 2017 Wartburg Choir was selected to perform at the National American Choral Directors Association National Conference. This photo was taken during the performance in Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis.

# ABOUT THE WARTBURG CHOIR

Founded in 1937, the internationally acclaimed Wartburg Choir performs sacred music from all historical periods and styles and often collaborates with contemporary composers, including Morten Lauridsen, Ēriks Ešēvalds, Jake Runestad, Ola Gjeilo, René Clausen, Stacey V. Gibbs, and Shawn Kirchner. Choir members are chosen by audition and represent most academic disciplines on campus. The choir makes annual concert tours throughout the United States and travels abroad every three years during the college's one-month May Term. For more than 80 years the choir has toured domestically and internationally, visiting 38 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, 23 European countries, Scandinavia, South Africa, and three Canadian provinces. The Wartburg Choir represents one of the five vibrant choral ensembles offered through the music department.

The Wartburg Choir has received many honors in its 80-year history. The choir was named national winner of The American Prize in Choral Performance (college/university division) in 2017. The Wartburg Choir has received several invitations to perform at the National American Choral Directors Association Convention, most recently in 2017, and the North Central division of the American Choral Directors Association. In January 2014, the Wartburg Choir worked with composer Morten Lauridsen, who lauded their performance of his *O Magnum Mysterium* as being "in the top echelon of any performance of that piece by any choir that I have ever heard." In 2011, the choir was invited to perform at the White House for the Holiday Concert Series and at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Over the past 30 years, the Wartburg Choir has appeared in many prestigious concert halls throughout the United States. The choir performed with opera star Simon Estes at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis; Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.; Lincoln Center, New York; and Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center, Chicago. Estes and the choir also performed two concerts with the Czech National Symphony Orchestra in Prague. The Wartburg Choir has also performed solo concerts at Carnegie Hall on two different occasions.

A 1999 Iowa Public Television production of the Wartburg Choir at the Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Germany, was broadcast on public television stations throughout the United States. It marked the first performance ever taped for television at the historic castle, where Martin Luther took refuge for 10 months during the stormy days of the Protestant Reformation. In May 2017, a new television production was taped in Wittenberg, Eisenach, Erfurt, Leipzig, and Neuendettelsau, Germany, as the choir followed the path of Martin Luther and the Reformation. "The Wartburg Choir in Germany: Celebrating 500 years of Reformation" and is now available online and is being shown worldwide.

## DIRECTOR HISTORY

The Wartburg Choir was founded in 1937 by Dr. Edwin Liemohn, a student of F. Melius Christiansen, founder of the St. Olaf Choir and the a cappella Lutheran choral tradition. During his tenure, he set a high standard of choral excellence, initiated the first Christmas with Wartburg festival in 1947, began the tradition of national concert tours, and coordinated the choir's first international tour.

Dr. James Fritschel, a student of Liemohn's, put his own stamp on the choir beginning in 1968. His singers toured Europe in 1974 and began the tradition of performing at the Wartburg Castle, the college's namesake in Eisenach, Germany. In 1980, the Wartburg Choir became the first American choral group to win first place at the International Choral Festival in Cork, Ireland. A prolific composer, Fritschel left a lasting mark on the Lutheran choral tradition.

In 1984 Dr. Paul Torkelson, a student of Fritschel's, became the third director of the Wartburg Choir. His choirs gained international acclaim for their versatility and precision. *The Washington Post* described the choir as "A Mighty Fortress of Skill" in headlining a review of the 2004 Kennedy Center concert by music critic Cecelia Porter. She described the choir as "a chorus trained with rock-solid discipline ... The choir has impeccable intonation and excellent diction."

Dr. Lee Nelson became the choir's fourth director in 2009. Under his leadership the Wartburg Choir amassed many new champions for the group. His efforts have increased the awareness and reputation of the choir. The group is in high demand for premieres of new compositions and continues to be praised by critics wherever it appears.



# WHERE *Love* ABIDES

## I. Where Charity and Love Abide...

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied (BWV 225, mvmt. 1) ..... | J. S. Bach (1685-1750)              |
| Our Father .....   | Alexander Gretchaninoff (1864-1956) |
| Canticle of Praise .....                                 | René Clausen (b. 1953)              |

## II. ...God is There

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Dixit in Corde Suo ..... | Levente Gyöngyösi (b. 1975)                                  |
| • Indodana .....         | arr. Michael Barrett (b. 1985)<br>and Ralf Schmitt (b. 1977) |
| † Carissimi .....        | J. Aaron McDermid (b. 1974)                                  |

## III. May We Love Each Other...

|                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Great God Almighty .....  | arr. Stacey V. Gibbs (b. 1964) |
| We Can Mend the Sky ..... | Jake Runestad (b. 1986)        |

## Intermission

## IV. ...with a Sincere Heart

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Ubi Caritas (from <i>Quatre Motets</i> , Op. 10) ..... | Maurice Durufé (1902-1986) |
| This House of Peace .....                              | Ralph Johnson (b. 1955)    |

## V. Let Us Rejoice and Love...

*(To be chosen from the following)*

|  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| § Unclouded Day .....                  | arr. Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)      |
| Angel Band .....                       | arr. Shawn Kirchner                |
| O! What a Beautiful City .....         | arr. Shawn Kirchner                |
| I'll Be On My Way .....                | Shawn Kirchner                     |
| How Great Thou Art .....               | arr. Sam Robson                    |
| § Wake, Awake .....                    | F. Melius Christiansen (1871-1955) |
| § Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal ..... | arr. Alice Parker (b. 1925)        |
| § Give Me Jesus .....                  | arr. L.L. Fleming (1936-2003)      |

- Emily Meeker, dancer
- † denotes world premiere
- § available for purchase on CD

### Instrumentalists:

Elizabeth Gish Matera, clarinet  
Beth Hoffman and Sally Malcolm, violin  
Kathleen Sihler, viola  
Jesse Luke, cello  
Hugh Brown, organ & piano  
Jake Huntley, percussion

# SELECTED TEXTS, TRANSLATIONS & PROGRAM NOTES

“Where charity and love abide, God is there.” These words originate from the 10th century antiphon “Ubi Caritas” and serve as the inspiration for today’s concert. In May 2017, the Wartburg Choir visited Neuendettelsau, Germany, on its international tour. Neuendettelsau is the home of Pastor Wilhelm Löhe, who founded the Diakonie Neuendettelsau, an institute for deaconesses who serve those in need. The Diakonie is one of Germany’s largest independent Christian institutions for social welfare work. Wartburg College traces its roots to 1852, when Löhe sent Pastor Georg Grossmann to create a teacher-training school for German immigrants. Pastor Löhe’s legacy is evident still today because of visionary leadership and mission work, which uses the tenets found in Matthew 25 as the basis for his service to others. In this biblical passage, Christ describes the corporal acts of mercy: feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, tend to the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. Today, Neuendettelsau continues to be a hub for social, medical, entrepreneurial, and spiritual services for those in need. It lives out the ideal of “loving your neighbor as yourself.” The music you will hear today explores and invites you to reflect upon ways in which kindness and love provide ourselves, our neighbors, and the world around us with the everlasting gift of grace. Where love abides, God is there.

## **Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied**

*(mvmt. 1, BWV 225)*

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)*

*Sung in German*

Sing to the Lord a new song!  
The assembly of saints shall praise him.  
Let Israel rejoice in him who made him.  
May the children of Zion be  
joyful in their king.  
They shall praise his name in the dance;  
with timbrel and harps they shall pray to him.  
-Psalm 149: 1-3

## **Our Father**

*Alexander Gretchaninoff (1864 - 1956)*

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth,  
Heav’n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Thine are kingdoms, thrones, dominions,  
might and majesty.  
Thy Name be hallow’d on earth,  
As it is hallow’d in heav’n.  
Thou givest strength to the weak;  
Thou rememb’rest the poor and the distress’d  
And upon them that fear Thy name  
Show’rs of blessing unnumber’d shall fall;  
peace shall follow them.  
By still waters their path shall be.  
Sing then of mercy, of judgement, of kingdoms,  
of thrones, dominions and pow’r for evermore.  
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.  
Come to us O Lord in splendor bright,  
fill our hearts with everlasting light. Amen.

## **Canticle of Praise**

*René Clausen (b. 1953)*

Praised be my Lord, praised be God!  
Praised be my Lord with all his creatures,  
and to our brother the sun,  
who brings us the day and the night.  
How fair is he, and shining with great splendor.  
O Lord, his brightness is like unto thee!  
Alleluia!

## **From René Clausen:**

Canticle of Praise was originally written for the King’s Singers (a professional six-man ensemble based in England) and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. This version was re-scored for a double choir performance. The words are attributed to St. Francis of Assisi which proclaim glory for the world and abundant blessings found all around us.

## **Dixit in Corde Suo**

*Levente Gyöngyösi (b. 1975)*

*Sung in Latin*

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”  
They are corrupt, and their ways are vile;  
there is no one who does good.  
God looks down from heaven on all people  
to see if there are any who understand,  
any who seek God.  
Everyone has turned away,  
all have become corrupt;  
there is no one who does good, not even one.  
Do all these evildoers know nothing?  
They devour my people as though eating bread;  
they never call on God. But there they are,  
overwhelmed with fear, where there was  
nothing to fear.



# SELECTED TEXT, TRANSLA

God scattered the bones of those who attacked you;  
 you put them to shame, for God despised them.  
 Oh, that salvation for Israel would  
 come out of Zion!  
 When God restores his people,  
 let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!  
 -Psalm 53

## Indodana

*arr. Michael Barrett and Ralf Schmitt  
 Sung in IsiXhosa*

The Lord has taken his son who lived amongst us  
 The son of the Lord God was crucified.  
 Hololo! Father Jehovah! Zjem zja! Father!  
 (*Hololo represents crying and has no translation.  
 Zjem zja is expressive and has no translation*)

## Carissimi

*J. Aaron McDermid (b. 1974)  
 Sung in Latin*

Dearly beloved, let us love one another,  
 for love is of God.  
 And everyone who loves is born of God,  
 for God is love.  
 No one has ever seen God.  
 But if we love one another,  
 God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.  
 God is love: and those that abide in love  
 abide in God and God in them.  
 -1 John 4: 7, 8b, 12, 16b

## From J. Aaron McDermid:

God is love. When first written nearly 2000 years ago, these words from 1 John offered a startling and unique new way of understanding God. The words “God is love” occur twice in the text of this piece, and both statements subtly introduce some raised pitches to the music. These raised notes are intended to lift the music into a new harmonic realm, just as the words “God is love” elevate our understanding of God into a higher plane of thought. The final phrase of text, “those that live in love live in God, and God lives in them,” is set in two contrasting styles. The first statement marks the high point of the piece, proclaiming joy in the mystical union with God; the invisible God is made visible in our midst. Yet oneness with God can seem beyond our human understanding, so as the music comes to rest, the second statement of this text is set with mysterious harmonies in an almost weightless tempo. A high soprano solo then leads back to the opening material, “Beloved, let us love one another,” and the piece concludes with this call to action.

## Great God Almighty

*arr. Stacey V. Gibbs (b. 1964)*

### Refrain:

God! Great God a'migh'y!  
 Great God a'migh'y!

Ridin' in a hurry, ridin' like he angry,  
 bullwhip in one han', cowhide in de' othuh,  
 Singin'...

### Refrain

Cap'ain went to yellun', (Great God!)  
 oh, cap'ain went to yelun',  
 (did you hear de cap'ain shout?)  
 “Take off yo' shirt now,  
 'cause I'm gonna kill ya!” No!

### Refrain

Hear de cap'ain comin', ridin',  
 won' be no mo', runnin' an' hidin'.  
 O hear my cry,  
 O Lawd, please hear my plea O Lawd.

Bully went to pleadin', (have mercy, have mercy)  
 O Lawd, have mercy, mercy,  
 Cap'ain don' you kill me,  
 please don' you kill me,  
 O cap'ain don' you kill me!

No, stop! I'm figh'in' till my death.  
 I'm gonna keep on arunnin' til my ver' las' breath,  
 Shoutin'... Great God a'migh'y!  
 Great God a'migh'y!

## From Stacey V. Gibbs:

*Great God Almighty* is a work song of a slave as he attempts to escape from his oppressors. The aggressive text speaks to his tenacity, perseverance and zeal to endure and overcome. This story mirrors life today as we encounter obstacles and circumstances that require us to be resilient, unwavering and hopeful.

## We Can Mend the Sky

*Jake Runestad (b. 1986)  
 Sung in Somali and English*

Let's go! To save your life (soul),  
 run with all your might.  
 - Somali proverb

In my dream I saw a world  
 free of violence, hunger, suffering.  
 A world filled with love.  
 Now awake in this world, I beg  
 let my dream come true.  
 - Warda Mohamed (written at 14 years of age  
 and an immigrant from Somalia)

# TIONS & PROGRAM NOTES

If we come together, we can mend  
a crack in the sky.

- Somali proverb

## **From Jake Runestad**

My sister was an English teacher at the Minnesota International Middle School in Minneapolis, which provides a safe and inclusive environment for East African immigrant students to learn (many of whom are Somali). Most of these students came to the USA to escape the violent civil war that has plagued Somalia since 1991. Seeking a better life for their children, these students' parents risked their lives to come to the USA – a valiant act of love. I wanted to tell their story through music, and so I asked my sister to have her students write poems about their experiences leaving their home and coming to the USA. I received over 100 poems that contain passion, pride, emotion, and vivid stories of the sights and sounds that these young people have experienced. I sifted through these texts and found the powerful words of 14-year-old Warda Mohamed that became the backbone of the composition. Using Warda's poem and two Somali proverbs, "We Can Mend the Sky" is a musical depiction of one's journey as an immigrant and an affirmation of hope as we all embrace the diversity around us.

## **Ubi Caritas (from Quatre Motets, Op. 10)**

*Maurice Duruflé (1902 - 1986)*

*Sung in Latin*

Where charity and love are, God is there.  
Christ's love has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.  
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.  
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.  
Amen.

## **This House of Peace**

*Ralph Johnson (b. 1955)*

*Sung in English*

"She is sleeping well. I am so grateful  
for every breath.  
I was scared, but you seemed to change all that.  
Thank you for your prayers. She is sleeping well.  
Thank you."

Bless Thou this house from roof to floor.  
Bless Thou each pilgrim seeking refuge at our door.  
Fill every room with peace and grace  
that all who sojourn here find healing in this place.

"I want you to know that my little girl  
was conceived under a bridge.

I have never lived in a house before that is clean  
all the time;  
where people talk nice to each other,  
all the time.

We feel at home here. I learned I can be here.  
I want this for my baby."

Bless Thou this house with fire and light;  
bless Thou each child who cries for comfort in the  
night; and by Thy healing gift imbued,  
may every wounded one we touch see life renewed.

"We live moment to moment now,  
not knowing what next will be.  
And in this unknown, I live in peace.  
She is sleeping well. Thank you."

Guide Thou our hands to heal and bless.  
Touch all who meet here with Thy love  
and gentleness.

Soothe all our hearts, let grieving cease  
may we find wholeness within this house of peace.

"And in this unknown, I live in peace."

## **From Ralph Johnson:**

*This House of Peace* was commissioned in 2008 to celebrate the grand opening of the Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend in Springfield, Ore., and was premiered that year by the Stangeland Family Youth Choral Academy at the Oregon Bach Festival in Eugene, Ore. The text weaves together the actual words of family members who stayed in the medical center's family guest house while their loved ones were in the hospital and a "healer's prayer" adapted by the composer from a poem by English clergyman and writer David Adam.

The solo sections present the thoughts and feelings of several people: the spouse of a seriously ill patient, the parent of an adult child who lies in a coma after a traffic accident, and an unwed young mother whose baby is in the neonatal intensive care unit. Framing and reflecting upon these solo sections is the prayer, sung by the full choir, which serves a chorale-like function, intimating the sacred nature of the relationship between those who offer care and those who seek it, the holiness of each "house" in which such care is given.



# THE WARTB

## Soprano 1

Rebecca Bennett, *Denver, Colo.*

Samantha Hallgren, *Arden Hills, Minn.*

Erin Henderson, *Edina, Minn.*

Annika Krieg, *Decorah*

Sarah Manche, *River Falls, Wis.*

Madalynn McKelvey, *Ottumwa*

Emily Russell, *Parkersburg*

Emily Schmidt, *Emmetsburg*

Samantha Wieland, *Dubuque*

Religion  
Music Therapy  
German Studies  
Business Administration  
Elementary Education  
Music Therapy  
Engineering Science  
Mathematics  
Secondary Education  
English  
Music Education  
Religion

## Soprano 2

Anna Broring, *Kasson, Minn.*

Madelyn Carlson, *Cedar Rapids*

Monica Crawford, *Independence*

Laura Klever, *Long Grove*

Jenna McMains, *Owatonna, Minn.*

Emily Meeker, *Altoona*

Gigi Norby, *Cedar Falls*

Abigail Schott, *Liberty, Mo.*

Claire Shaw, *Rosemount, Minn.*

Adriana Stuppi, *Springville*

Music Education  
Spanish  
Peace & Justice Studies  
Biochemistry  
Music Education  
Music Education  
Music Therapy  
Psychology  
Psychology  
Sociology  
Music Therapy  
Psychology  
Music Therapy  
Music Therapy  
Music Therapy

## Alto 1

Hannah Blaske, *Bettendorf*

Hannah Grimm, *Ely*

Kennedy Hiles, *Ogden*

Brooke Huffaker, *Story City*

Abigail Jones, *Princeton, Minn.*

Kelsey Levi, *Cedar Rapids*

Olivia Pederson, *Mason City*

Caria Philgreen, *Manchester*

Molly Savage, *Princeton, Minn.*

Amanda Wright, *La Crescent, Minn.*

Biology  
Music Education/Music  
Vocal Performance  
Psychology  
Music Education  
Mathematics  
Physics  
Business Administration  
Elementary Education  
Journalism & Communication  
Neuroscience

## Alto 2

Abbey Bond, *Libertyville, Ill.*

Katherine Bomgaars, *Sheldon*

Bailey Condon, *Hampton*

Taylor Guthrie, *Hopkinton*

Greta Hammond, *Johnston*

Kyra Lehman, *Shueyville*

Sierra Mastin, *Viroqua, Wis.*

Grace Morningstar, *Cedar Rapids*

Greta Nelson, *Northfield, Minn.*

Abby Singleton, *Indianola*

Andrea Weiss, *DeWitt*

Psychology  
Philosophy  
Religion  
Spanish  
Music Education  
Music Therapy  
Social Work  
Music Performance  
Music Education  
Religion  
Peace & Justice Studies  
Biology  
Music Education  
Elementary Education  
Music Education/Music Therapy





# URG CHOIR

## Tenor 1

Riley Anderson, *Cedar Rapids*  
 Tim Baird, *Denver, Colo.*  
 Mitchell Bluml, *Marion*  
 Aaron Craig, *Story City*  
 Mark Fakler, *West Bend*  
 Theo Herbst-Ulmer, *Algona*  
 Marcus Ortiz, *Solon*  
 Ethan Pruisman, *Mason City*  
 Braeden Radke, *Princeton, Minn.*

Music Education  
 Music Education  
 Biology  
 Music Education  
 Music Education  
 Music Education  
 Engineering Science  
 Music Education  
 History

## Tenor 2

Jack Aagesen, *Des Moines*  
  
 Cory Brannaman, *Mount Vernon*  
 Levi Capesius, *Algona*  
  
 Sam Engelken, *Manchester*  
  
 Reid Kallenbach, *Norwalk*  
 Jonathon Lansink, *Sioux Rapids*  
  
 Ethan Peter, *Stewartville, Minn.*  
  
 Caleb Poissant, *Farmington, Minn.*  
 Mitchell Stover, *Gilbertville*  
 James Wenman, *West Des Moines*

Physical Education  
 Fitness Management  
 Business Administration  
 Music Education  
 Music Performance  
 Graphic Design  
 Business Administration  
 Biochemistry  
 Accounting  
 Philosophy  
 Music Education  
 Music Therapy  
 Engineering Science  
 Music Education  
 Music Education

## Bass 1

Tyler Davis, *Johnston*  
 Connor DeJong, *Marion*  
 Michael Etler, *Spencer*  
 Chris Hale, *San Antonio, Texas*  
 Jake Huntley, *Dodge Center, Minn.*  
 Nathan Lange, *Stewartville, Minn.*  
 Andrew Newell, *Waverly*  
 Joe Peer, *Des Moines*  
  
 Bryce Shutt, *Grimes*  
 Sam Sides, *Des Moines*

Psychology  
 Music Education  
 Journalism & Communication  
 Music  
 Music Education  
 Music Education  
 History  
 Music Education  
 Music Performance  
 Music Education  
 Journalism & Communication

## Bass 2

Dalton Bunnell, *Oskaloosa*  
 Brett Guy, *Ankeny*  
  
 Michael Hettinger, *Aurora*  
 John Krull, *Hampton*  
 Garrett Lane, *Crystal, Minn.*  
 Kai Oelschlager, *Wanamingo, Minn.*  
 Leif Olson, *Farmington, Minn.*  
 Carter Shaull, *Dyersville*  
 Landon Stalzer, *Story City*  
 Ethan VanderWoude, *Pipestone, Minn.*

Religion  
 Business Administration  
 Economics  
 Engineering Science  
 Music Education  
 Neuroscience  
 Graphic Design/Art  
 International Relations  
 Music Education  
 Music Education  
 Music Performance

## Accompanist

Hugh Brown, *Iowa City*

Music Education

All hometowns Iowa unless otherwise noted.



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# MEET THE CONDUCTOR

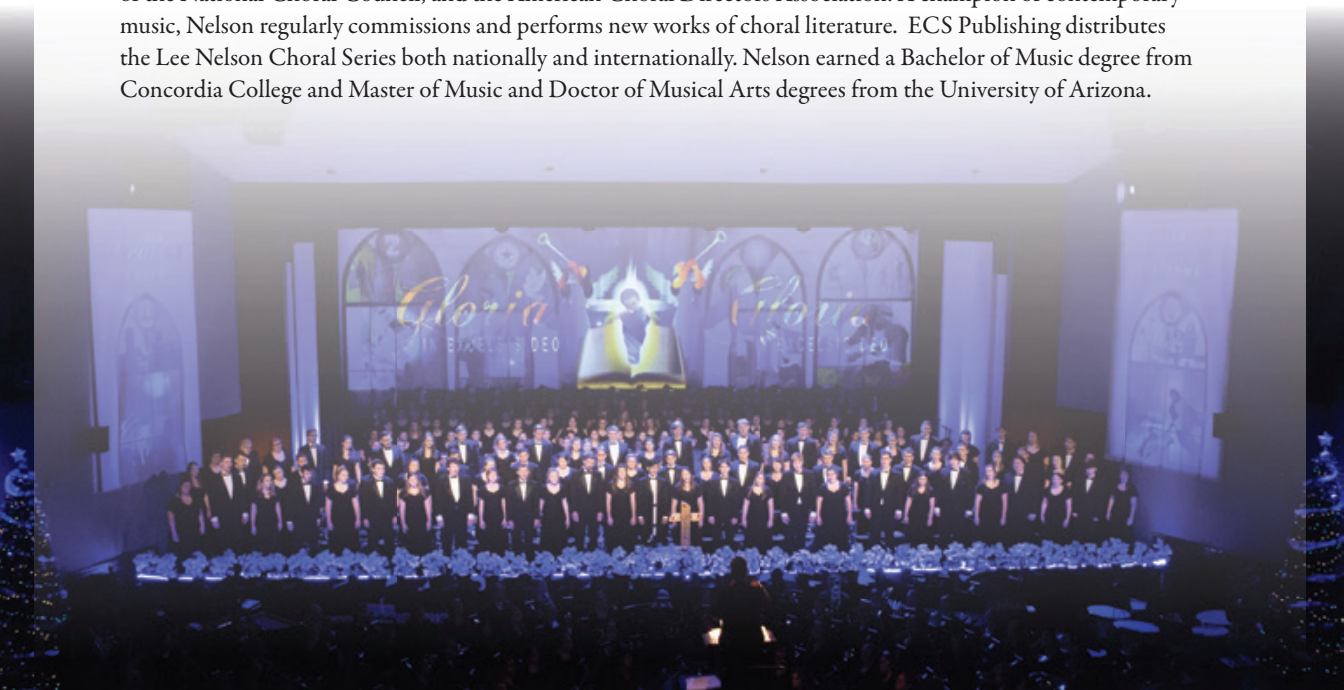
Dr. Lee Nelson is the Patricia R. Zahn Chair in Choral Conducting and director of choral activities at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Nelson conducts the Wartburg Choir and Ritterchor (men's choir) and teaches beginning and advanced conducting and choral literature at Wartburg. He also serves as the artistic director of Christmas with Wartburg. Wartburg College recognized Nelson's work by awarding him the John O. Chellevoid Award for Excellence in Teaching and Service.



Under Nelson's direction, the Wartburg Choir has performed nationally and internationally, including unprecedented performances at the White House and the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. The choir has performed at multiple conventions of the American Choral Director's Association, including the 2017 National Convention. His national and international tours have earned overwhelmingly positive reviews where critics lauded Nelson's innovative programming and the choir's "rich and flexible choral tone and impeccable intonation." The choir was honored as the national winners of The American Prize, College/University Choir Division in 2017. Internationally renowned composer Morten Lauridsen praised Nelson and the Wartburg Choir's performance of his "O Magnum Mysterium" stating: "It was in the top echelon of any performance of that piece by any choir that I have ever heard." On the most recent international tour, a television production of "The Wartburg Choir in Germany: Celebrating 500 years of Reformation" was taped and is now being shown worldwide.

A highly sought-after conductor, clinician and adjudicator, Nelson has directed all state and honor choirs throughout the United States and internationally. He has also been invited to conduct at Carnegie Hall on multiple occasions. Most recently, he conducted a 300-voice choir and orchestra in a performance of Randall Thompson's *Testament of Freedom* at the "Carnegie Hall President's Day Concert." Earlier in his career, Nelson won the National ACDA Graduate Conducting Competition in Los Angeles and received the Outstanding Young Choral Conductor of the Year, awarded by ACDA of Minnesota.

Nelson is an active member of the National Association for Music Education, where he served as an elected member of the National Choral Council, and the American Choral Directors Association. A champion of contemporary music, Nelson regularly commissions and performs new works of choral literature. ECS Publishing distributes the Lee Nelson Choral Series both nationally and internationally. Nelson earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Concordia College and Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Arizona.



Dr. Lee Nelson has put his mark on Christmas with Wartburg, an annual four-concert festival in Waverly and Des Moines, with the addition of stunning visuals and light effects.

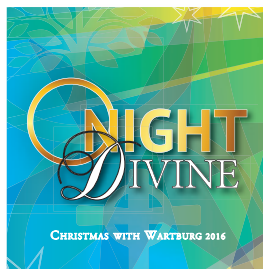


# RECORDINGS

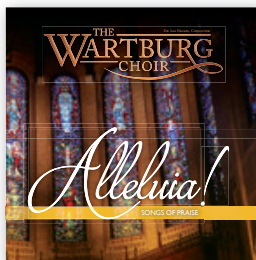


## **Let My Love Be Heard**

In this album, the Wartburg Choir explores themes of joy and blessing, loss and suffering, and hope and renewal through the works of classic composers such as Felix Mendelssohn and William Byrd, alongside contemporary works by Jake Runestad and Eric Whitacre.

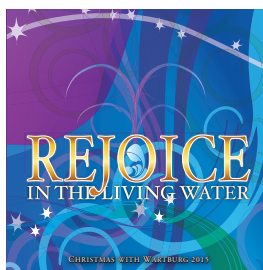


## **Christmas with Wartburg 2016**



## **Alleluia**

With a pure and ethereal choral sound, this album takes the listener on an emotional journey from trial to triumph through the works of classic composers such as Bach and Haydn, alongside contemporary works by Jake Runestad and Ēriks Ešenvalds.

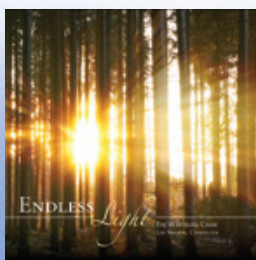


## **Christmas with Wartburg 2015**



## **Sanctuary**

This album features performances of pieces such as *When David Heard*, *Set Me as a Seal*, *Abide with Me*, *Shenandoah*, *Unclouded Day*, *O Nata Lux*, *There Is No Rose of Such Virtue*, and Morten Lauridsen's *Prayer*.



## **Endless Light**

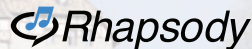
*Endless Light* includes transcendent sacred a capella choral music. The album features several original compositions and commissioned works and many traditional Lutheran choral standards.



## **The Wartburg Choir in Germany: Celebrating 500 Years of Reformation**

Watch the Wartburg Choir as they tour through Germany, following the path of Martin Luther and the Reformation. This documentary was filmed in May 2017 on the Wartburg Choir's international tour. Watch at [www.wartburg.edu/choir-in-germany](http://www.wartburg.edu/choir-in-germany).

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Additional albums are available at [www.wartburg.edu/recordings](http://www.wartburg.edu/recordings).

The Wartburg Choir is the only American choral group with a standing invitation to perform at the Wartburg Castle, the namesake of Wartburg College. It is now a regular performance venue on international tours.

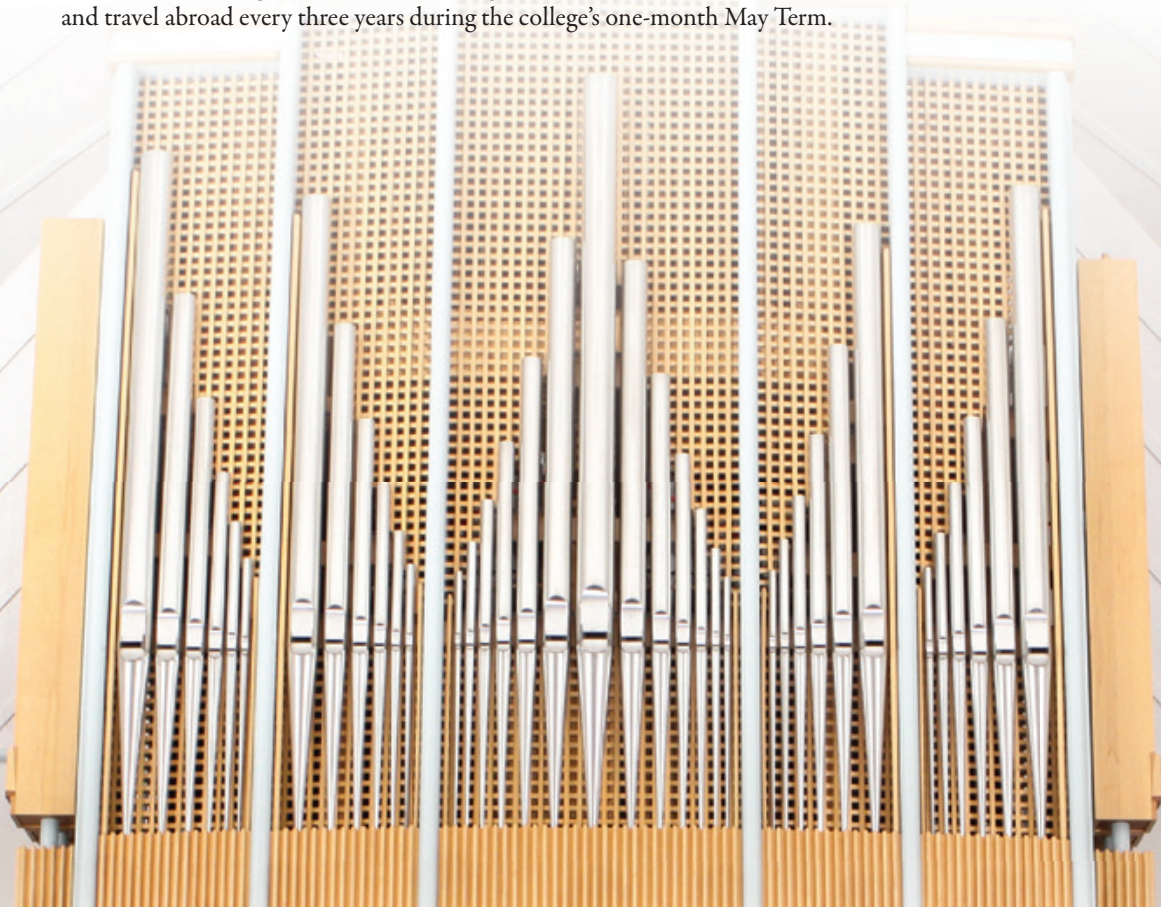


# MUSIC AS A MAJOR

- The **Bachelor of Music Education** degree meets the requirements of the Iowa Department of Education for K-12 music licensure. This entitles students to teach in the elementary general music classroom or a band, choir, or orchestral setting at the middle or high school level.
- The **Bachelor of Music Education/Music Therapy** dual degree is offered for those who wish to use music to help children and adults with special needs. This degree allows students to combine K-12 music licensure through the state department of education with certification as a board-certified music therapist (MT-BC) through the American Music Therapy Association.
- The **Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy** degree meets the requirements for certification as a music therapist (MT-BC) through the American Music Therapy Association. The program includes coursework in social work and opportunities for minor concentrations.
- The **Master of Music in Music Therapy** offers training in advanced competencies for credentialed music therapists or for those who have completed a bachelor's degree in music therapy. The curricular structure of the MA-MT emphasizes research and practice, acknowledging that degree seekers already have completed professional certification in their field.
- The **Bachelor of Music** degree prepares students for further study leading to professional performance, studio teaching, or work in church music.
- The **Bachelor of Arts** degree in music prepares students for a variety of career options in the music field. This degree is the most flexible music degree, allowing students to combine a music major and minor field, such as business or religion. The major also offers concentrations in church music and piano pedagogy.

## MUSIC ENRICHES CAMPUS LIFE

Wartburg offers more than 15 music ensembles, including six vocal ensembles, two concert bands, two orchestras, two jazz bands, and various other chamber ensembles/small groups. The Wartburg Wind Ensemble, Wartburg Choir, and Castle Singers schedule annual concert tours within the United States and travel abroad every three years during the college's one-month May Term.





# SINGING AT WARTBURG COLLEGE

## **The Wartburg Choir**

Founded in 1937, the internationally acclaimed Wartburg Choir performs a cappella music from various historical periods and styles, often collaborating with contemporary composers. Choir members are selected by audition and represent many academic disciplines on campus. Under the direction of Dr. Lee Nelson, the choir makes annual concert tours throughout the United States and international tours every three years. The choir has toured to 23 European countries, Scandinavia, and South Africa. The Wartburg Choir has performed in many renowned concert halls, including the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and the White House.

## **Castle Singers**

Under the direction of Dr. Nicki Toliver, the Wartburg Castle Singers is a select group of vocalists that performs a variety of chamber repertoire, varying from Renaissance madrigals and motets to contemporary pop and vocal jazz. Originally the college's chapel choir, the ensemble has expanded its literature and reinvented itself through the years. The Singers have traveled to Europe, Australia, Fiji, the Caribbean Islands, and Brazil, and are planning an international tour to Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Germany in May.

## **St. Elizabeth Chorale**

Wartburg College's women's choir, directed by Dr. Nicki Toliver, performs a variety of choral literature for events on and off campus. The ensemble is named for St. Elizabeth, a noblewoman who lived in the Wartburg Castle and was canonized for her work with the poor and sick. The women, affectionately known as "Lizzies," regularly collaborate with the men of Ritterchor.

## **Ritterchor**

Ritterchor, the Knights Choir, is a men's ensemble named in honor of the Wartburg Castle, where Martin Luther once lived disguised as a knight. Under the direction of Dr. Lee Nelson, the group performs choral literature of various styles at events on and off campus and hosts the annual Real Men Sing Festival. In February 2017, Ritterchor traveled to New York City to perform Randall Thompson's *The Testament of Freedom* at Carnegie Hall. The men of Ritterchor regularly collaborate with the women of St. Elizabeth Chorale.

## **Kantorei**

The college's chapel choir, Kantorei, is a mixed ensemble directed by Dr. Karen Black. The choir performs a variety of sacred music and provides leadership for campus worship. Kantorei appears at events both on and off campus, collaborates with Ritterchor and St. Elizabeth's Chorale in *Christmas with Wartburg*, and performs annually with the Handbell Choir.

*View all other music ensembles at [www.wartburg.edu/music-ensembles](http://www.wartburg.edu/music-ensembles).*



# WARTBURG MUSIC FACULTY AND STAFF

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Barbara Ashton .....               | music therapy   |
| Katherine Beane Hanson.....        | voice   |
| Diane Beane.....                   | piano   |
| Dr. Karen Black .....              | organ, music theory, college organist, Kantorei director, and church music                          |
| Laurie Braaten-Reuter.....         | piano   |
| Gretchen Brumwell .....            | harp  |
| Dominique Cawley .....             | flute   |
| Daniel Gast .....                  | voice   |
| Rosemary Gast .....                | voice   |
| Josh Hakanson .....                | Knightlites Jazz Band director  |
| Dr. Craig A. Hancock .....         | director of bands, Wind Ensemble director, conducting, trombone, euphonium, tuba                    |
| Dr. Melanie Harms.....             | music therapy   |
| Dr. Andrew Harris.....             | horn  |
| Marcia Haugen .....                | office coordinator  |
| Al Jacobson .....                  | percussion  |
| Lauren Jensen .....                | bass  |
| Stephanie Klemetson .....          | music tour, camp, and promotion manager   |
| Dr. Jennifer Larson .....          | voice   |
| Scott Larson.....                  | voice   |
| Liudmila Lebedeva.....             | cello   |
| Mark Lehmann.....                  | voice   |
| Bard Mackey.....                   | low brass   |
| Cindi Mason.....                   | clarinet  |
| Dr. Gregory Morton .....           | oboe, bassoon   |
| Dr. Scott Muntefering .....        | Symphonic Band director, music education, trumpet   |
| Dr. Lee Nelson .....               | Wartburg Choir director, Ritterchor director, conducting, Christmas with Wartburg artistic director |
| Dr. Brian Pfaltzgraff, chair ..... | voice, Opera Workshop director  |
| Carita Pfaltzgraff.....            | voice   |
| Dr. Ted Reuter .....               | piano, music history  |
| Kara Rewerts .....                 | music therapy   |
| Pat Reuter Riddle.....             | piano   |
| Rich Scheffel.....                 | low brass   |
| Tim Schumacher.....                | commercial music  |
| Timothy W. Schumacher .....        | Handbell Choir director, guitar   |
| Dr. Meghan Schumacker .....        | saxophone   |
| Dr. Paula Survilla .....           | music history, music theory, ethnomusicology  |
| Dr. Jacob Tews .....               | Wartburg Community Symphony conductor, Kammerstreicher conductor, violin, viola, music theory       |
| Helen Thrall.....                  | piano   |
| Dr. Nicki Toliver .....            | Castle Singers director, St. Elizabeth Chorale director, music education                            |
| Dr. Suzanne Torkelson .....        | piano, music theory, pedagogy, Tower School of Music director                                       |
| Jim Vaux.....                      | trumpet   |
| Dr. Eric Wachmann .....            | clarinet, music theory  |



# A GREAT VALUE ENHANCED

A Wartburg College education is a great value, providing students with an excellent education, personalized attention, and the foundation for life and career accomplishments. Numerous scholarship and grant opportunities for students enhance that value.

## **Regents and Presidential Scholarships**

*\$14,000 – full tuition*

These top merit award scholarships are awarded to students with outstanding academic credentials. Details are available on the Wartburg website.

## **Meistersinger Music Scholarship**

*Up to \$5,000 per year*

Open to music and non-music majors and awarded on basis of audition.

[www.wartburg.edu/audition](http://www.wartburg.edu/audition)

## **Wartburg College Funded, Endowed Scholarships**

*Up to \$2,500 per year*

This year 447 scholarships were awarded recognizing academic talents, vocational goals, and personal characteristics, primarily for upper-class students.

## **Education Partners In Covenant (EPIC)**

*Up to \$750 per year*

A matching funds program between Wartburg and participating congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

## **Legacy Grant**

*\$1,500 per year*

For full-time students with alumni parent(s) and/or grandparents, and students with a sibling who currently attends or has graduated from Wartburg. Applicable toward tuition. Not based on financial need.







## ABOUT WARTBURG COLLEGE

Wartburg is a selective liberal arts college of the Lutheran Church (ELCA), internationally recognized for community engagement. The college's 1,537 students come from 55 countries and 28 U.S. states. Wartburg is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.

Wartburg offers more than 50 academic majors, including music education, performance, music therapy, and church music. The college's 15 vocal and instrumental music ensembles are open to music and nonmusic majors. The Wartburg Choir, Wind Ensemble, and Castle Singers tour annually and travel abroad every third year during the college's one-month May Term.

All-State musicians and Lutheran Summer Music participants who enroll at Wartburg qualify for minimum \$2,500 scholarships. Meistersinger Music Scholarships offer up to \$5,000 per year to music and non-music majors, based on audition.

Wartburg takes its name from the Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Germany, where Martin Luther took refuge for 10 months during the stormy days of the Protestant Reformation. Music groups frequently visit the castle during their May Term trips abroad.

