



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Greetings from Wartburg College and the Wartburg Community Symphony Orchestra!

It is our pleasure to offer a thrilling opportunity for high school student musicians: On Friday and Saturday, February 17-18, 2017, we will host our third annual **Meistersinger Honor Orchestra Festival**! This festival is designed to bring together the best instrumental musicians in the region to perform exciting and challenging repertoire at a high level in a professional setting. The weekend will culminate in a Saturday evening concert in historic Neumann Auditorium, with a program that includes George Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and Samuel Barber's *Suite from Medea*.

We are so excited to have *three* phenomenal guest artists joining us this year! World-class Minnesota Orchestra trumpet player **Charles Lazarus** is our featured soloist for the concert, performing the trumpet concerto written for him by Emmy Award-winning Minnesota composer **Steve Heitzeg**. **Dr. Benjamin Klemme**, Associate Conductor of the Quad Cities Symphony Orchestra, will spend the weekend with us as guest conductor and clinician. In addition to all the rehearsal and coaching times, festival attendees will have a special meet-and-greet opportunity with Mr. Lazarus and Mr. Heitzeg on Saturday, where they will talk about their collaboration on the new concerto, discuss their 21st century musical lives, and answer questions.

Officially, the festival begins on Saturday, but students are invited to take advantage of an **extended festival experience on Friday**. The schedule for that day should give a great taste of what life is like as a Wartburg Knight, and includes a rehearsal with the WCSO and overnight housing on campus with student members of the orchestra. For those who are interested, we are also pleased to offer Meistersinger Music Scholarship auditions exclusively for festival participants Friday evening! Accepted string players will also have the chance to take part in a master class on Friday evening, during which selected participants will perform a prepared solo to be coached by one of our Wartburg faculty or a WCSO professional. This is a great opportunity to polish a piece for solo/ensemble contest.

Detailed application information is available at www.wartburg.edu/festivals. We have streamlined the application process this year: simply fill out the form for students who are interested in attending the festival and who you think would benefit from this unique opportunity. Students, just ask your orchestra director (politely!) to fill out the form on your behalf; there is no fee to apply. **The deadline for submission is November 1**, so that accepted students can be notified and sent music for preparation far in advance of the festival.

Directors, I hope you will encourage your students to consider this exciting event. The parent of one of last year's students described the orchestra's performance as "nothing short of extraordinary," and expressed that they were "grateful and honored to have had such a wonderful experience with Dr. Tews, his students, and the orchestra members this weekend." I look forward to investing in another fantastic group of young musicians this February!

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Jacob Tews
Visiting Assistant Professor of Violin/Viola
Music Director/Conductor – Wartburg Community Symphony
Wartburg Chamber Orchestra

P.S. - If you have questions, please see the FAQs on the wartburg.edu/festivals website above, or contact festival coordinator Stephanie Klemetson by email at stephanie.klemetson@wartburg.edu. Thank you for your support, and please feel free to pass this information along to any other students or colleagues you think might be interested!