



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

October 23, 2023

Dear Colleague,

The Wartburg College Concert Bands proudly announce the **2024 Meistersinger Honor Band Festival (MHBF)** for high school students currently in 9th through 12th grades! I'm excited to meet you and your students and look forward to being one of the conductors for the bands this year. I'm also thrilled to share that our guest conductor will be Dr. Devan Moore, Assistant Director of Bands and Visiting Assistant Professor of the Greenwood School of Music at Oklahoma State University. Dr. Moore is an incredible music educator and conductor.

The MHBF will be made up of two bands of balanced instrumentation. Students are chosen by **director's nomination**, based **ONLY** on the information submitted on the Festival Website. This information is also used to determine seating within the bands. **REMEMBER: your students are chosen ONLY based on the information submitted through the nomination form.** Fill it out to the best of your ability and sell your students with the best of their ability. Personnel for both groups will be decided upon the following factors: *balanced instrumentation, mixture of schools*, and what is best for the *repertoire chosen for each ensemble*. Both groups will work with both conductors! Do NOT nominate students who will **not be available** for the entirety of the MHBF. We realize that other events are happening this weekend, but the extent of the accommodations made to allow students to participate in multiple events can detract from the overall experience for all of the students.

Music will be made available to you through a google drive folder near the end of December. We expect a basic level of preparation (correct notes, correct rhythms, in time, etc.) to ensure the ensemble rehearsals are focused on making the best music possible. We don't want to turn these rehearsals into "practice" sessions.

The first rehearsal will begin at 1:00 pm on Saturday, February 3, and we'll conclude that day with a performance by the Wartburg College Symphonic Band. **The Finale Concert is at 2:00 pm on Sunday, February 4**, and will feature performances by the Wartburg College Wind Ensemble and the Knightlites Jazz Band under the direction of Prof. Josh Hakanson. A general schedule will be available at www.wartburg.edu/festivals. Tickets for the finale concert will go on sale on January 26, 2024.

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, November 28, 2023. You will receive **email notification of accepted students no later than December 15, 2023.** The participation fee is \$60 per student. This includes meals for your students. Participation and meal fees are non-refundable. Do not send money until you have received notification of accepted nominees! A limited number of housing options will be available on campus (housed with current WCCB college students in dorms), but other opportunities for off campus housing will be sent out upon acceptance. There will be **educator sessions** for directors during the MHBF with myself and our guest conductor Dr. Devan Moore. Programming information from the guest conductors will follow, as will an exact itinerary.

I hope to meet many of you in the near future, and am excited to work with many of your students through our 2024 Meistersinger Honor Band Festival at Wartburg College.

Please direct any questions or inquiries to:

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