



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

November 2, 2022

Dear Colleague:

The Wartburg College Concert Bands proudly announce the **2023 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 composer-conductor and Director of Bands Emeritus from California State University, Long Beach, John Alan Carnahan. John is an incredible conductor, rehearsal technician, and writes wonderful music for young ensembles.

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. There is no expectation that you spend any of your rehearsal/teaching time working on this repertoire with your students, but we do expect a basic level of preparation (right notes, right 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 4, and we'll conclude that day with a performance by the Knightlites Jazz Band under the direction of Luke Sanders. **The Finale Concert is at 2:00 pm on Sunday, February 5**, and will feature performances by the Wartburg College Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. A detailed schedule will be sent out by the end of November.

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, November 29, 2022. You will receive **email notification of accepted students no later than December 15, 2022.** 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 composer-conductor, John Alan Carnahan. 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 2023 Meistersinger Honor Band Festival at Wartburg College

Please direct any questions or inquiries to:

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John Alan Carnahan is Professor Emeritus from the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University, Long Beach. His teaching responsibilities included conductor of the University Wind Symphony and Professor of Graduate Conducting. Prior to his appointment at Long Beach, Mr. Carnahan served as Assistant Director of Bands at the University of Texas, and as Director of Bands at Clovis High School in Clovis, California.

Representing a “new generation” of wind band conductors, Professor Carnahan brings a broad knowledge and extensive background to all idioms of instrumental music performance. His university ensembles have gained widespread notoriety for distinctive performance quality and imaginative musical interpretation. The Los Angeles Times hailed the University Wind Symphony as, “...thoroughly disciplined and euphonious!” His ensembles have been honored with invitations to perform at numerous regional, national, and international music conferences and festivals, including: the Music Educators National Conference (MENC) Biennial National Conference, the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) Regional and National Conferences, the American Bandmasters Association (ABA) National Conference, the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) State Conference, and as the featured university ensemble at the Korean International Wind Band Festival in Seoul, Korea. A champion of new music, Professor Carnahan has been a member of numerous national commissioning projects and has premiered more than twenty new works over the past several years.

Jeff de Seriere is the Interim Director of Bands and a Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Wartburg College (IA), Artistic Director and CEO of the Catalyst Wind Collective (CA), and a current doctoral conducting student of Dr. Mallory Thompson at Northwestern University (IL).

Prior to teaching at Wartburg College and pursuing his doctoral studies, Jeff was an active music educator, adjudicator, and clinician in Southern California. From 2012-2016 he served as the Assistant Director of Bands at Mayfair High School in Lakewood, CA where he helped run the award-winning Monsoon Marching Corps, Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band. In 2014 he began teaching at the Orange County School of the Arts in Santa Ana, CA leading the Symphonic Band, coaching chamber ensembles, teaching courses in music theory and music education, and eventually becoming the coordinator of the nationally recognized Frederick Fennell Wind Studies Program. In 2017 he was appointed Director of Instrumental Music at the newly founded California School of the Arts - San Gabriel Valley in Duarte, CA. During his tenure as Director of Instrumental Music at CSArts-SGV, he conducted the Wind Ensemble, Philharmonic Strings, and Musical Theatre Ensemble. Under his direction, the ensembles at CSArts-SGV gained recognition as “Superior” ensembles at local and regional music festivals. The Musical Theatre Ensemble was also nominated for the “Best Student Orchestra” award for their 2018 production of Pippin and 2020 production of In the Heights by the John Raitt Awards for Youth. While teaching at CSArts-SGV, Jeff was also a lecturer in music education at California State University, Long Beach from 2018-2020. In 2021 Jeff was recognized with the “Rising Star” award in music education by the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association. Jeffrey has adjudicated for the Southwest Judges Network, judging Music Performance at the California State Band Championships in 2019. He has also served as a pre-festival clinician at numerous schools throughout Southern California.

As a conductor, Jeffrey has studied privately with Dr. Mallory Thompson, John Alan Carnahan and Dr. Anthony Mazzaferro. In 2014, he was named one of seven finalists in the National Band Association’s Young Conductors Mentor Project. In that same year, he made his international conducting debut with the CSULB Wind Symphony in Seoul, South Korea. In the summer of 2015, Jeffrey was chosen as one of six conductors to conduct The United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own”. In 2016, Mr. de Seriere, and his professional brass ensemble, True Brass Choir, performed as a featured ensemble at the California All-State Music Education Conference in San Jose, CA. He served as the Music Director of the Symphonic Winds of the Pacific from 2018-2021. In 2021, Jeffrey was chosen as one of 12 Conducting Fellows in the Midwest Clinic’s Reynolds Conducting Institute where he conducted members of the United States Army Field Band. A strong advocate for new wind band repertoire, Jeffrey has commissioned/co-commissioned 10 new works for winds.

Jeffrey earned his B.M. in Music Education and M.M. in Instrumental Conducting from the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University, Long Beach where he studied conducting with John Carnahan and saxophone with James Barrera. He has also participated in conducting workshops with Dr. Frank Battisti, Eugene Migliaro Corporon, Col. Timothy Holtan, Jerry Junkin, Craig Kirchoff, H. Robert Reynolds, and Dr. Jack Stamp. Jeffrey holds active memberships in the College Band Directors National Association, California Band Directors Association, and the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association.