



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Dear Choral Directors,

You are cordially invited to participate in the 9th annual **Real Men Sing** choral festival at Wartburg College on **Saturday, October 5, 2019**. This event is designed to jump-start and motivate the men in your choral program early in the year. Although designed with middle school and high school students in mind, we encourage and invite church and community choir singers to participate as a celebration of the life-long pursuit of music.

We are excited to announce that the St. Paul-based **Minnesota Boychoir** will be our featured guest ensemble for the festival. Executive and Artistic Director for the Minnesota Boychoir, **Mark Johnson**, will also conduct the middle school festival chorus. We also welcome special guest and composer **Kyle Pederson**, whose TTBB arrangement of "Since I Laid My Burdens Down" will receive its premiere performance at the festival.

Directors will choose from two choirs to enroll their singers: a middle school chorus (Grades 7-9/10), conducted by Mark Johnson of the Minnesota Boychoir, and a Grade 9-Adult chorus, conducted by **Dr. Lee Nelson**, Director of Choral Activities at Wartburg.

Directors' workshops, led by Assistant Director of Choral Activities **Dr. Nicki Toliver** and focusing on recruitment, retention, and teaching strategies for working with male voices, will be offered on the day of the festival as well. More information about the workshops will be available at a later date.

The day will culminate in a grand finale concert featuring the Grades 7-9/10 festival chorus, Grade 9-Adult festival chorus, a combined festival choir (all participants), and special performances by the Minnesota Boychoir and Wartburg College's male ensembles Ritterchor and Festeburg.

To register your singers for this event, visit www.wartburg.edu/festivals. The registration link will go live on Friday, August 30th and will remain open through midnight on Sunday, September 15th OR until the cap of 500 participants has been reached. This festival WILL reach capacity, so do not wait until the deadline to turn in your registration.

West Music is the official music distributor for the Real Men Sing festival. Purchase online at <http://www.westmusic.com/realmensing> or call 1-800-397-9378. The mass choir piece by Kyle Pederson will be challenging, particularly for younger singers, so please do your best to prepare them in advance. To assist you in this task, practice tracks will be made available. Stay tuned for more information.

It is our hope to inspire and invigorate your young men while helping them find the joy and richness that singing brings to life!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Klemetson
Real Men Sing Festival Coordinator
Wartburg College
100 Wartburg Blvd
Waverly, IA 50677
(319) 352-8743 (office)
(319) 352-8501 (fax)
stephanie.klemetson@wartburg.edu

Real Men Sing Festival Information

Participation

All men 7th Grade – Adult are invited to attend. There are two choirs: Grades 7-9/10 or Grades 9 – Adult. As you can see, 9th and 10th graders have the option to participate either in the younger or older choir. Choose the festival choir that is the best fit for your singers or ensemble.

Cost

\$30 per student (covers t-shirt, lunch, and registration fees, but NOT music). Directors and/or designated chaperones participants are invited to attend at no additional cost, but must RSVP.

Registration

The registration process is completely online. Directors can register their singers beginning **Friday, August 30th** by completing the registration form found on our website: www.wartburg.edu/festivals.

**Entries will be accepted on a first come, first served basis beginning August 30th.
Registration will close Sunday, September 15th, OR once the 500-participant cap has been reached.**

Concert Dress

Blue Jeans, Sneakers & Real Men Sing T-Shirt (participants will receive shirt at registration).

Music

Music is NOT included with registration. Please order music through **West Music** at www.westmusic.com/realmensing. Information on how to download rehearsal tracks will be shared with directors after registering.

Real Men Sing Mass Choir Piece <i>(all participants will sing)</i> <i>Since I Laid My Burden Down</i> – Kyle Pederson (TBB, piano – kylepederson.com)	
Grade 7-9/10 Festival Choir <i>Kin</i> – Timothy C. Takach (TB, piano - timothyctakach.com) <i>Stodola Pampa</i> – Mark Weston (TBB - Heritage Music Press)	Grade 9-Adult Festival Choir <i>I will be a Child of Peace</i> – arr. Elaine Hagenberg (TBB, piano – Beckenhorst Music) <i>Music in the Air</i> – arr. Ryan Murphy (TBB, piano – Walton Music)

Finale Concert and Ticket Information

5 pm, Neumann Auditorium. Doors open at 4:30 pm. Each participating school will receive one complimentary ticket for the director or chaperone. Those bringing an extra teacher (including student teachers) or chaperones are eligible for discounted tickets through the registration form.

Tickets go on sale to family members and the general public on Monday, September 23. We WILL sell out, so be sure to give plenty of notice regarding the release date to parents and family.

Watch Live on Knight Vision! Friends and family who are not able to attend the concert can watch at home via Wartburg's livestreaming service Knight Vision. A link to the performance will be available at www.wartburg.edu/knightvision.

Recording

A recording of the Finale Concert will be made and will be available for purchase at the concert or at www.comprehensivesoundservices.com.