Dear Choral Directors,

We are excited to invite you and your tenor and bass singers to join us for RitterSing (formerly titled Real Men Sing) at Wartburg College on **Saturday, October 2nd, 2021**! This event is designed to jump-start and motivate the tenors and basses 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.

The festival offers two choirs: a 7-9/10 Grade Chorus and a 9/10 Grade–Adult Chorus. Choose whichever choir works best for your students. Nationally recognized vocal chamber artist and conductor, former Cantus Baritone and Assistant Conductor of the National Lutheran Choir, **Adam Reinwald** will conduct the 7-9/10 Grade Chorus, and Wartburg's Director of Choral Activities, **Dr. Lee Nelson**, will conduct the 9/10 Grade – Adult chorus.

We are excited to announce that the **2019 International Barbershop Harmony Society Quartet Champions, Signature** will be our featured guest ensemble for the festival. RitterSing participants will come together with **Signature** on the award winning arrangement of “Sweet Caroline”.

Directors' workshops, led by Assistant Director of Choral Activities **Dr. Nicki Toliver** and focusing on recruitment, retention, and teaching strategies for working with tenor/bass 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 **Signature** and Wartburg College’s tenor/bass ensembles Ritterchor and Festeburg. Please be reminded that all events are subject to change pending health and campus guidelines.

To register your singers for this event, visit [www.wartburg.edu/festivals](http://www.wartburg.edu/festivals). The registration link will go live on Friday, August 27th and will remain open through midnight on Sunday, September 12th OR until the ensembles are at capacity. 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 RitterSing festival. Purchase online at [http://www.westmusic.com/rittersing](http://www.westmusic.com/rittersing) or call 1-800-397-9378.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Bouska
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RitterSing Festival Information

Participation
All tenor/bass 7th Grade – Adult are invited to attend. There are two choirs: Grades 7-9/10 or Grades 9/10 – Adult. As you can see, 9th and 10th graders have the option to participate either in the younger or older choir. We encourage and invite church and community choir singers to participate as a celebration of the life-long pursuit of music. Choose the festival choir that is the best fit for your singers or ensemble.

Cost
$35 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 27th 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 27th. Registration will close Sunday, September 12th, OR once capacity has been reached.

Concert Dress
Blue Jeans, Sneakers & RitterSing 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/rittersing.

RitterSing Mass Choir Piece (all participants will sing)
Sweet Caroline – arr. Gene Cokeroft (TTB, Barbershop Harmony Society)

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<tr>
<th>Grade 7-9/10 Festival Choir</th>
<th>Grade 9/10-Adult Festival Choir</th>
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<tr>
<td>Homeward Bound – Carl Strommen (TTB with piano – Alfred Music)</td>
<td>Fergus an’Molly – Vijay Singh (TTBB, recorder &amp; piano – Alfred Music)</td>
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Finale Concert and Ticket Information – subject to change based on current health guidelines
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 will go on sale to family members and the general public on Monday, September 27. 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.