



November 2024

Dear Colleague,

The Wartburg College Concert Bands proudly announce the **2025 Meistersinger Honor Band Festival (MHBF)** for high school students currently in 9th through 12th grades! I'm excited to see you and meet 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 Mr. Michael Nestor, music educator, clinician and professional musician. Mr. Nestor 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.

The first rehearsal will begin at 1:00 pm on Saturday, February 8, 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 9**, and will feature a performance 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 January 31, 2025.

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, November 26, 2024. You will receive email notification of accepted students no later than December 16, 2024. The participation fee is \$60 per student for those requesting housing, and \$45 per student for those commuting. 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). There will be **educator sessions** for directors during the festival with myself and our guest conductor Michael Nestor. Programming information from guest conductors will follow, as will an exact itinerary.

I hope to see many of you in the near future, and am excited to work with many of your students through our 2025 Meistersinger Honor Band Festival at Wartburg College.

Please direct any questions or inquiries to:

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