



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Greetings from Wartburg College!

We hope your year is off to a great start and holiday preparations are going well. We are excited to invite you to nominate your top high school singers to participate in the **Meistersinger Honor Choir Festival on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> and Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020!**

The Meistersinger Honor Choir Festival is designed to bring together the finest singers from high schools across the region to collaborate with a world-class artists and perform their music with the highest level of artistry. We are pleased to welcome poet **Charles Anthony Silvestri** and composer **Kyle Pederson** as our artists-in-residence, whose poetry and music will be featured at the festival. We also welcome Waukee High School A Cappella Choir under the direction of Jeffrey Knutson as our guest choir for the festival.

This year's festival will be comprised of two festival choirs: a 250-voice Meistersinger Mixed Honor Choir under the direction of Dr. Lee Nelson, and a 100-voice Meistersinger Treble Honor Choir under the direction of Dr. Nicki Toliver. Due to the challenging nature of the repertoire, the nomination process is dependent upon director comments which lists their accomplishments, musical abilities and work ethic. Each nomination will be closely reviewed to select the finest musicians from each school. Because of the competitive nature of this festival, it is important to note that not every nominee may be accepted.

The festival repertoire includes music highlighting the poetry of Charles Anthony Silvestri. The students will also be performing a world premiere by Kyle Pederson setting Charles Anthony Silvestri's poem *We Stand on Their Shoulders* written specifically for this event!

**Mixed Choir**

*Cantate Canticum Novum* – Dan Forrest  
*Sleep* – Eric Whitacre  
*We Stand on Their Shoulders* – Kyle Pederson

**Treble Choir:**

*Tundra* – Ola Gjeilo  
*Heaven Unfolding* – Andrea Ramsey  
*We Stand on Their Shoulders* – Kyle Pederson

Music will be made available this December through West Music online [www.westmusic.com/meistersinger](http://www.westmusic.com/meistersinger), or toll-free at 1-800-397-9378. **Wartburg will not have extra copies of the music.**

Accepted singers will have the opportunity to submit a video of a solo performance to be considered for a complimentary voice coaching with our Wartburg voice faculty and a Sunday evening performance of their solo for the 350+ festival participants. These students will also be recognized on Monday's Finale Concert with a certificate of achievement.

For more information and nomination form, visit [www.wartburg.edu/festivals](http://www.wartburg.edu/festivals). **The deadline to complete the online nomination form is Sunday, December 8 at midnight.** Accepted students will be notified the week of December 15, and invited to formally register for the festival at that time. Registration for the festival, which includes meals and on-campus housing, is \$50 per singer.

We hope you will seriously consider this event for your advanced musicians. Please contact festival coordinator Stephanie Klemetson by email at [stephanie.klemetson@wartburg.edu](mailto:stephanie.klemetson@wartburg.edu) or phone at 319-352-8743 with any questions. Thank you for your continuing support. We look forward to working with your students this year!

Warmest Regards,  
Dr. Lee Nelson & Dr. Nicki Toliver