Dear Choral Directors,

We are excited to invite you and your tenor and bass singers to join us for **RitterSing** at Wartburg College on **Saturday, October 3rd, 2026**!

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 7th-9th/10th Grade Chorus (known as the Squire's Festival Chorus) and a 9th/10th Grade–Adult chorus (known as the Knight's Festival Chorus). Choose whichever choir works best for your students. From District 196 in the South Metro Twin Cities, **Adam Giebner**, will conduct the 7th-9th/10th Grade Chorus**,** and Wartburg's Director of Choral Activities, **Dr. Lee Nelson,** will conduct the 9th/10th Grade – Adult chorus.

We are excited to announce that **New Fangled Four** will be our featured guest performance ensemble for the festival.

Educator Sessions will be available focusing on recruitment, retention, and teaching strategies for working with tenor/bass voices. These sessions will feature time with New Fangled Four and Mr. Adam Giebner!

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

To register your singers for this event, visit www.wartburg.edu/festivals. The registration link will go live on Thursday, August 27 and will remain open through 11:59pm on Sunday, September 20th OR until the ensembles are at capacity. This festival WILL reach capacity, so do not wait until the deadline to turn in your registration.

Music lists and information will be released later this week! Music can be purchased from your favorite music distributor, such as West Music, JWPepper, Rieman Music, etc…

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,

Dr. Lee Nelson
Director of Choral Activities
Wartburg College
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Waverly, IA 50677

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Festival Information

Participation
All tenor/bass 7th Grade – Adult are invited to attend. There are two choirs: Grades 7th-9th/10th or Grades 9th/10th – 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 participant (covers t-shirt, lunch, pre-concert snack 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 **Thursday, August 27th** by completing the registration form found on our website: www.wartburg.edu/festivals. Registration using credit card and registration requesting an invoice are BOTH available!

Entries will be accepted on a first come, first served basis beginning August 27th.
Registration will close Sunday, September 20th, 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 through your favorite music distributor!

RitterSing Mass Choir Piece *(all participants will sing)* *Swing Down Chariot – The Vagabonds* (Barbershop Harmony Society)	
Grade 7-9/10 Festival Choir	**Grade 9/10-Adult Festival Choir**
Shine On Me (TBB) – Rollo Dilworth (Hal Leonard) *Donkey Riding (TB/TTB)* – arr. Blake Richter (Walton Music)	*Hope Lingers On (TTBB)* – arr. Andrea Ramsey (Music Spoke) *Brother's, Sing On (TTBB)* – Edvard Grieg, ed. Howard McKinney (Alfred Music Publishing)

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 will go on sale to family members and the general public on Monday, September 28. We WILL sell out, so be sure to give plenty of notice regarding the release date to parents and family. Tickets are available at: www.wartburg.edu/festivals under RitterSing - Concert Tickets.

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 .