



Greetings from Wartburg College and the Wartburg Community Symphony Orchestra!

On Saturday and Sunday, 23-24 February 2019, we will host our fifth annual **Meistersinger Honor Orchestra Festival!** This festival is designed to bring together the best musicians in the region to perform exciting and challenging repertoire in a professional setting. The weekend will culminate in a Sunday afternoon concert in historic Neumann Auditorium, with an all-Russian program that includes Tchaikovsky's iconic *Violin Concerto* and Shostakovich's monumental *Symphony No. 5*.

Our guest artist joining us for the festival this year will be **Nicholas Tavani**, first violinist of the award-winning Aeolus Quartet and regular performer with the elite Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. In addition to rehearsal and coaching times, Mr. Tavani will join me in presenting for the students a master class, and will spend some time sharing about his entrepreneurial experiences as a member of a well-respected and self-managed string quartet.

Officially, the festival begins with **registration on Saturday morning**, with students participating in a variety of rehearsals and coaching sessions, a masterclass, and other educational activities throughout the weekend. The finale will be a full concert, side-by-side with musicians from the Wartburg Community Symphony Orchestra, on Sunday afternoon. The festival is designed to give students a taste of what life is like as a Wartburg Knight, and includes an overnight stay on campus, hosted by the student members of our orchestra. For those seniors who are interested, we are also pleased to offer Meistersinger Music Scholarship auditions for participants of the festival!

To lessen the burden on students traveling from a longer distance, or for those who are simply looking for more enrichment, we have available an **extended festival experience beginning on Friday evening**, with housing for students and additional activities. Please contact jacob.tews@wartburg.edu for more information if this is of interest.

Application information is available at www.wartburg.edu/festivals. We aim to have a streamlined application process: teachers and/or parents, simply fill out the form for students who are interested in attending the festival and who you think would benefit from this unique opportunity. Students may also fill out the form on their own, which is especially applicable to those who are educated at home or who attend a school which does not have an orchestra program. There is no fee to apply and **the priority deadline for submission is Friday, November 2**. Accepted students will be notified and sent music for preparation far in advance of the festival. For selected students, a flat fee of \$45 per student covers a portion of tuition, room, and board for the two-day event (the remainder of the cost of the festival is generously underwritten by the Wartburg Community Symphony Association).

Directors, I hope you will encourage your students to consider this opportunity. The father of one of our alumni violinists described the orchestra's performance as "nothing short of extraordinary," and expressed that he was "grateful and honored [for his son] to have had such a wonderful experience with Dr. Tews, his students, and the orchestra members." I look forward to working with another fantastic group of young musicians in February!

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Jacob Tews
Director-in-Residence of Orchestras and Strings

P.S.-The festival is open to students on *all* orchestral instruments, so please feel free to spread the word to your colleagues in the band!