

# Renée Fleming, Opera Great and Multi-Grammy Winner, Visits Wartburg

MT. VERNON, NEW YORK, USA, August 16, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Contact: Angela Ciminello  
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Opera Great and Multi-Grammy Winner, Renée Fleming visits Wartburg

Mount Vernon, NY, August 13, 2018 - Wartburg, Westchester's premier provider of comprehensive residential and healthcare services for seniors, hosted the Tony-nominated Broadway star of *Carousel*, Renée Fleming. Wartburg President & CEO, David J. Gentner, the Institute for Music and Neurologic Function Executive Director Dr. Concetta Tomaino, Wartburg board member, Ulrich J. Rosa, and other senior staff met with Ms. Fleming in an effort to highlight the importance of music and arts on Wartburg's campus.

"It was a joy to visit Wartburg - with the natural beauty of the campus and comprehensive care, its residents must feel at ease and at home." Fleming said. "Understanding that integrating the arts greatly enhances quality of life and provides many cognitive and social benefits is especially powerful. I look forward to following the groundbreaking work of the Institute of Music and Neurologic Function, led by Dr. Connie Tomaino, as it continues the scientific exploration of the power of music therapy to awaken, stimulate, and heal the brain."

While at Wartburg, Ms. Fleming visited the Adult Day Services program and was greeted by registrants singing as piano music filled the room. Additionally, she learned about the innovative music therapy services offered by the Institute for Music and Neurologic Function (IMNF) and Wartburg's award-winning, internationally recognized arts-based therapy program, Creative



Renée Fleming with Registrants



LtoR: Renée Fleming, David J. Gentner, Dr. Connie Tomaino

Aging & Lifelong Learning. She also visited Wartburg's Outpatient Center to hear about innovative programs using music to improve mobility and speech impairments.

IMNF Executive Director and Co-Founder, Dr. Concetta M. Tomaino said, "It was an honor to have Ms. Fleming visit IMNF at its new home at Wartburg. We are so grateful for her advocacy of the importance of music and brain health and happy she was able to see our work first hand."

Ms. Fleming is a world renowned Soprano and four-time Grammy Award winner. In 2013, then President Obama awarded her the National Medal of Arts, America's highest honor for an individual artist. Ms. Fleming is a longtime advocate for the transformative power of music, including its therapeutic uses for individuals with neurologic issues. In 2016, she initiated a partnership between the National Institute for Health and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts focusing on the intersections of music and the brain and is a spokesperson for the American Music Therapy Association.

Wartburg President, David J. Gentner shared, "Wow, what a thrill to welcome a legend to the campus. Ms. Fleming's beliefs about the value of music and the arts in society are well documented so we were delighted that she would find the time to visit with Dr. Tomaino." Fleming's visit ended with President Gentner reading a proclamation making Ms. Fleming an honorary member of the Wartburg family.

#### Wartburg

Wartburg, located in Westchester County, NY, offers integrated, comprehensive senior residential and healthcare services. Unlike conventional retirement communities, Wartburg provides a wide range of services to both residents living on its beautiful 34-acre campus and people in their own homes. From independent, assisted living and award-winning nursing home care to inpatient/outpatient rehabilitation, home care and adult day care services, its continuing care approach has earned Wartburg a trusted reputation in Westchester. Wartburg also provides caregiver support at every stage with an array of options to find the level of care that considers the whole family. Most recently, Wartburg was named one of the "Best Nursing Homes in New York State" by U.S. News & World Report for the eighth consecutive year in 2018. In addition, Wartburg received the 2016 Eli Pick Facility Leadership Award from the American College of Health Care Administrators and the 2015 Legacy Award from the Westchester County Chapter of the Links

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