



FORT DODGE CHORAL SOCIETY

Bringing Choral Masterworks to Life Since 1968

Choral Passages Vol. 34, No. 5, April 2024

FROM THE PODIUM

Greta Nelson, Artistic Director



At the conclusion of my first ever rehearsal with the Fort Dodge Choral Society, Bruce Perry approached me and stated how impressed he was with the full, rich sound and caliber of music-making this group exhibited each week. I think for almost every rehearsal thereafter, Bruce would make a point to “talk shop” and share his admiration for these wonderful singers with me. He was so proud of this ensemble, the messages and stories we shared through song, and the impact it would hopefully have on those who were able to attend and hear us. Today, we continue to strive for choral excellence, create programs that we hope are meaningful, and keep Bruce’s memory close to our hearts.

Requiem Brevis World Premiere

This requiem mass was commissioned by the Fort Dodge Choral Society to commemorate the life of longtime music director Bruce Perry. Bruce loved traditional texts like the one set in this piece. He specifically loved Agnus Dei movements, and he had a great fondness for lower voices. My hope is that this piece, and specifically this most ardent and intimate movement, the *Agnus Dei*, serves as a memorial to his life of music and continues his inspiring musical legacy.

~ Jordan Jinosko, March 2024, Ann Arbor, MI

Jordan Jinosko will be attending the May 5, 2024, concert.

Finale of Season

Music Goes ‘Round



Beauty Surrounds

Favorites of the ensemble & *Requiem Brevis*, a commission by composer Jordan Jinosko

Sunday, May 5, 2024, 3 pm, St Olaf Lutheran Church

This concert is sung in memory of Bruce Perry, conductor and friend for 30 years, 1993-2023



Memories

Bruce Lee Perry
1956 - 2023

I was a charter member of FDCS and one of the small group of people who organized the Choral Society in 1967. Bruce was the eighth director. I was very impressed with his leadership. He was willing and enthusiastic about keeping the Choral Society as a group of adult singers interested in singing challenging choral works. We knew he was a keeper.

~ Joanne Astor, FDCS founding member & singer

Bruce holds a special place in my heart and in my family’s heart. We were friends and colleagues for a long time and shared big musical and life experiences. He felt like a sibling to me in the everyday ways that siblings share. One of his best attributes to me was his sense of humor. I kept a running list of “Bruce-isms.” My favorite is, “In my heaven, the angels have vibrato.”

~ Michelle Havlik-Jergens, former FDCS pianist & organist

Bruce Perry is one of the most influential individuals in my life. He gave so much time and energy, so that I could learn and improve musically. I would not be the person I am today without him. Not only was he my mentor, but he was also a close friend. I really enjoyed going to my lessons during the week, and spending time with him. During my lessons we often spent more time talking than actually singing. It still is hard to believe that he is gone, but he is always with me, and I will take everything I learned from him throughout the rest of my life.

~ Aaron Amhof, former FDCS singer & Bruce Perry student

My favorite memory is that after programming my daughters, Aliese and Susan, to sing "The Cat Duet" for Aliese's high school senior recital, they wanted to wear headbands with cat ears, and he agreed to wear a headband with dog ears — and "barked" at them at the end of their performance.

I always felt that I should be paying him therapist's fees for all the talks with all three of my daughters who took voice lessons from him.

~ Julie Hoesel, FDCS singer & mom of Bruce Perry students

I told Bruce many times that I appreciated his understanding of the social importance of music in our society. Whether the cause be Alzheimer's disease, homelessness, suicide, or bullying, Bruce was able to use the bully pulpit of the Choral Society to create a concert experience to help our audiences find a better understanding of the subject. At those concerts, he often brought in community advocates for the cause at hand so that they could gain exposure.

~ Scott Johnston, FDCS singer

More memories of Bruce will be shared in the program at our May 5 concert. We hope you can join us and meet our commission composer, Jordan Jinosko.

Newsletter by
Charlton Pendry

Jordan Jinosko is the composer of Fort Dodge Choral Society's commission, *Requiem Brevis*, in memory of Bruce Perry. She is a multi-award winning American composer. Her music draws inspiration from history, mythology, nature, and her experience as a multiracial, transgender woman. Often, Jordan's music advocates for social causes.



Jordan was the winner of the Brazosport Symphony Orchestra Composition Competition, the Green Dot Composers Competition, the Molly Mulligan Artistic Scholarship, the John A. Wollaver Award, and the After Life Film Festival's Best Film Score Award. She has composed scores for award-winning films.

Jordan's music has been performed in concert halls across the United States and Canada, and has been featured on the radio, on streaming platforms, and at classical music conventions. She studied music composition and music theory at the University of Michigan and the Eastman Community Music School, and attended symposia with faculty at Juilliard, Princeton, Eastman, and Yale.

FDCS ANNUAL MEETING

All are invited!

Monday, May 20, 2024, at 7:30 pm
Grace Lutheran Church, 211 S 9th Street, Fort Dodge

We review the last year briefly, consider planning for the 2024-25 season, and address any issues and ideas that have come up. We hope you can join us!

FDCS is honored to have received a two-year Capacity Building Grant from the Iowa Arts Council through the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. The grant has enabled us to continue outreach efforts and to commission a new work in memory of Bruce Perry - Jordan Jinosko's *Requiem Brevis*, which will have its world premiere at our May 5 concert.

Fort Dodge Fine Arts Association
on behalf of
Fort Dodge Choral Society
824 N 8th St
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fort Dodge, IA
Permit 4

Fort Dodge Choral Society
presents

Beauty Surrounds

Favorites of the ensemble &
Requiem Brevis by composer Jordan Jinosko

In Memory of Bruce Lee Perry, 1956 - 2023



Sunday, May 5, 2024
3 pm

St Olaf Lutheran Church
239 N 11th St, FD

Admission: Season Ticket or \$12 at-the-door.
Students free.

Choral Passages

Volume 34, Number 5 April 2024

Choral Passages is the official newsletter of Fort Dodge Choral Society, published 5 times per year to inform members of the activities and concerns of the Society. Subscriptions are free by sending your name, address and phone number to:

824 N 8th St
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Or by calling (515) 576-0718
Or email: fdchoralsociety@gmail.com

fdchoralsociety.org
webmaster: Collin Ellsbury

