Sing to live Live to sing

FD CHORAL SOCIETY

Bringing Choral Masterworks to Life Since 1968

Choral Passages Vol. 37, No. 2, October 2026



FROM THE PODIUM

Jacob Pedersen, Artistic Director

"Censorship is telling a man he can't have a steak just because a baby can't chew it." ~ Mark Twain

School has started back up, the leaves are turning, and once again Fort Dodge Choral Society is gearing up for another concert. Many of my friends are avid readers. I've been given so many book recommendations, and yet I can't bring myself to start any books. I'm not sure if it's because I read so much in elementary school or having to read so many research articles for graduate school, but I no longer have the desire or spark to pick up a book for fun. Maybe someday I'll get that spark back, but for now I'm content with filling my time with choir rehearsals, going to Oktoberfests, and grading students' work.

My family was filled with avid readers. Dad would read Robert Heinlein on the road, my sister would read anything she could get her hands on, and today Mom is always getting a new book to read to my niece and nephew.

Another person in my family that always had a book at her side was my Grandma Pete. I remember, when I was a kid, her books had fancy covers with a farmhouse in the background or a picturesque landscape with a young couple embracing together. Sometimes they were kissing, sometimes the woman was wearing a fancy dress, and other times the man was shirtless. This is a memory I laugh about now since I know what the content of those novels held, but as a kid I was completely oblivious. I would pass by Grandma's section at the library and point it out to my mom. "Those are Grandma's books!"

This concert hopes to explore and inform about choral music that has either been banned in history or the poet of the music has been banned. Sometimes societal norms are the reason and other times it's because of a hatred towards a group of people. Either way, this music isn't explicit or foul. All ages can enjoy the beauty of this music and hopefully at the end wonder why these artists were banned in the first place. We hope to see you on October 25th at Saint Olaf to experience and learn about these moments in our history.



2026-2027 Concert Season

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Theme of banned music

3 pm, St Olaf Lutheran Church

239 N Eleventh St, Fort Dodge

Sunday, December 20, 2026

Carol Sing-along at 2:30pm

3 pm, First United Methodist Church

127 N Tenth St, Fort Dodge

Sunday, February 7, 2027

Collaboration with the Fort Dodge Area Symphony

featuring Poulenc's *Gloria*

3 pm, FDCSD Middle School Auditorium

800 N Twelfth St, Fort Dodge

Sunday, May 2, 2027

Featuring *For a Breath of Ecstasy* by Michael John Trotta

3 pm, Grace Lutheran Church

COME SING WITH US!



If you enjoy singing great choral music of all types, plan on joining us.

Regular rehearsals: Monday nights
7 - 9 pm, Grace Lutheran Church
211 S 9th Street, Fort Dodge

First rehearsal for our Dec 20 concert:
Monday, Oct 26, 7pm

Choral Society Members Sing for Frontier Days

On Friday, June 5, ten Fort Dodge Choral Society members sang the national anthem at the Frontier Days opening ceremony at the Fort Museum and Frontier Village. Sean O'Connor, FDCS tenor and board member, and assistant at the Fort Museum, introduced them, saying, "On behalf of the Museum and its staff and volunteers, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to sopranos Leslie Anne Reetz and Ruth Bennett, altos Helen Patterson, Delaney Schara and Terry Mogensen, tenor Corbin McHone, and basses Mason Lundberg, Alec Pendry, and Rick Schara (who came all the way from Fergus Falls, MN, to sing with his daughter!) for lending their talents to our community celebration." Our rendition of *The Star-Spangled Banner* was an inspiring kickoff to the weekend festivities and a stirring observation of our nation's 250th anniversary.

Three Choral Society Directors

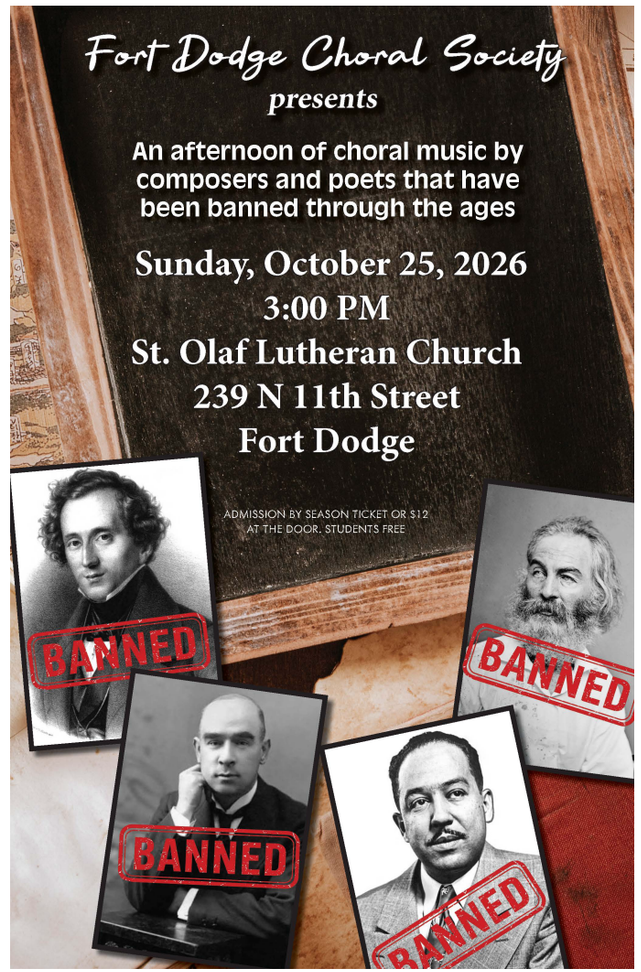


Three Choral Society directors were together last June at the Summer Symposium of the Iowa Choral Directors Association. Rick Chitty was receiving the award for outstanding choral advocate. And Greta Nelson and Jacob Pedersen snagged a pic with him.

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