



FORT DODGE CHORAL SOCIETY

Bringing Choral Masterworks to Life Since 1968

Choral Passages Vol. 37, No. 1, August 2026



FROM THE PODIUM

Jacob Pedersen, Artistic Director

Summer has always been a time for rest and recharge. If you are a parent, it's more of a time to fill your schedule with as many activities as possible, so your kids don't get bored and completely take over the house. Maybe summer is more of a recharge time for educators than

for families, and if you're a teacher with kids, I really feel bad for you. I use this time for travel, a room update/remodel, or to just do nothing. Something I'm trying to do more of is listening to newer choral works or catch up listening to older pieces, and traveling as much as possible.

Our 2026-2027 Choral Society season will begin with an exploration of music that has been banned. Limiting knowledge or access to knowledge isn't something that is exclusive to only literature, but extends to all of the arts as well. In December, we will treat you to some newer and older holiday music to put you in the season of giving. In February, we will be collaborating with the Fort Dodge Area Symphony

on Poulenc's *Gloria*. This is the first time Choral Society has performed this work with a full symphony, and we are excited about this collaboration with our local Symphony, revisiting this masterwork. We will close out our season with Michael John Trotta's work: *For a Breath of Ecstasy*. With such a wide variety of music, we know there is something for everyone this season.

We hope you'll consider being a sponsor of the choir this season. Our membership drive will start up again this Fall. We cannot do all that we do without your continued support. Please also consider joining us by singing in the choir. All are welcome, and whether you've sung for years or you're picking up a score for the first time, there is a spot just for you.

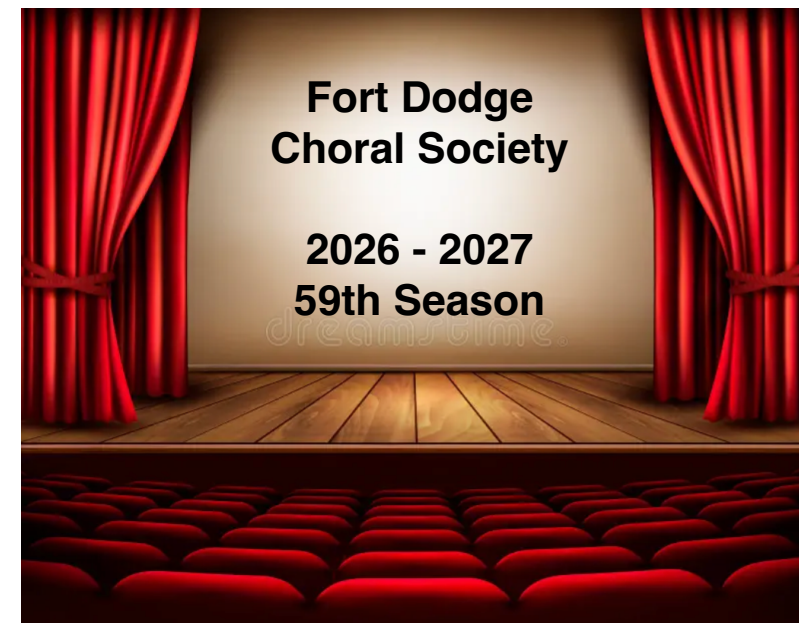


COME SING WITH US!

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 Oct 25 concert:
Monday, Aug 24, 7pm



We Hope You Can Join Us!!

It's our 59th season of bringing great choral works to life!! We thank each of you for being our great community support system. Without your support, Fort Dodge Choral Society would not be able to continue sharing the joy of great choral music with our community.

There are many ways to support us – singing, playing, listening, donating – everyone has made a difference.

Your season membership to Choral Society gives us stable support through the entire season. Your season membership gives you a ticket to four wonderful concerts and promotes a vibrant arts community around and within Fort Dodge.

Membership Levels

Friend w/senior discount	\$25 (1 ticket)
Friend	\$30 - \$49 (1 ticket)
Supporter	\$50 - \$74 (2 tickets)
Booster	\$75 - \$99 (2 tickets)
Sponsor	\$100 - \$199 (2 tickets)
Patron	\$200 - \$499 (2 tickets)
Benefactor	\$500 - \$999 (2 tickets)
Philanthropist	\$1,000+ (2 tickets)

Three Scholarships Awarded for 2026-2027

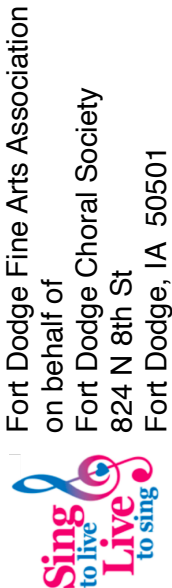
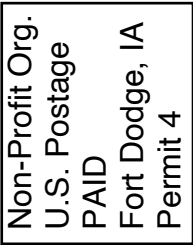
For the coming school year, the Fort Dodge Choral Society awarded three \$1500 scholarships to Iowa college students majoring in music and/or music education. The committee reviewed 10 applicants from 6 institutions - Wartburg College, Drake University, Mount Mercy University, Indian Hills Community College, and University of Northern Iowa. The committee consisted of Lynda Mumm, Jacob Pedersen, Sean O'Connor, Delaney Schara, Scott Johnston and Stephanie Hill (chair).

Zach Middling is a Fort Dodge native who will be a junior at University of Northern Iowa majoring in Choral Music Education in the fall. He is active in the UNI Concert Chorale, the UNI Men's Varsity Glee Club, Cantorei and the UNI Opera Ensemble. He is a member of the American Choral Director's Association. Zach hopes to teach choir in a high school or middle school in or near the Fort Dodge area.

Michael Wagner is a Fort Dodge native, who, like Zach, will be a junior at University of Northern Iowa and majoring in Choral Music Education. He, too is active in UNI Concert Chorale and Cantorei, and is a member of the American Choral Director's Association. Michael has been a member and soloist in Fort Dodge Choral Society. He hopes to be a choral director at a high school in Iowa.

Audrey Bell (Rice) is from Tiffin, Iowa. This is her second award from Choral Society. She will be a senior at Wartburg College in the fall, majoring in Music Education and Vocal Performance. Audrey participates in the Wartburg Choir, Kantorei (section leader, student conductor), Midnight Jazz and Opera Workshop. She is a prize winner at Metropolitan Chorale Art Song Competition 2025. Audrey is hoping to teach junior high or high school in Oklahoma.

~ Stephanie Hill, Scholarship Chair



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
211 S Ninth St, Fort Dodge

Choral Passages

Volume 37, Number 1 August 2026

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



Follow us on
Facebook

Newsletter by
Charlton Pendry

fdchoralsociety.org
webmaster: Collin Ellsbury