



# FDCHORAL SOCIETY

Bringing Choral Masterworks to Life Since 1968

2025-2026 Season Finale

Sunday, May 10, 2026

Music from the big screen

3 pm, Historic Phillips Auditorium  
1015 5th Ave N, Fort Dodge

Choral Passages Vol. 36, No. 5, April 2026

## FROM THE PODIUM

Jacob Pedersen, Artistic Director

“Roads? Where we’re going, we don’t need any roads.”

~ Doc Brown, *Back to the Future, Part 1*



Other than the *Lord of the Rings Trilogy*, I would say the second-best movie trilogy out there is *Back to the Future*. It’s one of the first movie series we got DVDs of, and the story was just as immersive, entertaining and suspenseful as when I had seen it as a 12-year-old. When you’re on the road as a truck driver, the main thing you can count on when you’re stopped for the evening is being able to watch a movie. Whenever I went with Dad on the road, we would always make sure to bring movies along, and *Back to the Future* was the set I would make sure was packed. Other films I remember seeing were *Artificial Intelligence* with Haley Joel Osment and *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Movies have always had a place in my life and the households of many other families.

What makes the film? Is it the story, the action, the actors, a combination of? Of course, it’s music! My favorite genre of film is horror. That level of suspense and the unknown can only be achieved with music. Think about it. *Jaws* would not have had the same amount of suspense if we didn’t have

the classic “duh-dunt.....duh-dunt, duh-dunt” underscore. Same thing with horror films. Music helps drive the drama and creates the sense of dread that something terrible is about to happen to our heroes. If there was no music under my favorite horror films, it just wouldn’t have the same feeling. Any movie for that matter wouldn’t have the same feeling! I remember when I first watched *A Quiet Place*, and the sound system in my house wasn’t working. I thought that was the whole point of the movie, and I watched the entire thing with subtitles and without any sound. My first watch was super boring, and I didn’t see the hype in the film. It wasn’t until I was going to see the second one with a friend that I realized my mistake, so of course I had to rewatch it (with the sound on).

Film music and underscoring is something that has been embedded in our culture ever since movies were first released. If you were fortunate to go to Iowa Central’s Spring Showcase, you got to hear how music affected the tone and the mood of a silent film performed by the band. It shows exactly what helps drive cinematography. I’m even excited when I read some of the Fort Dodge Senior High School Seniors’ future plans and see a couple of graduates interested in pursuing film score composition in college!

Our concert, Sounds from the Cinema, highlights some of the film scores and TV shows that focus on vocals, text, or sound effects. We hope to see you at Historic Phillips Auditorium on May 10th at 3:00pm.



## Oscars for Best Original Song

The Academy Award for Best Original Song, introduced at the 7th Academy Awards (1934), honors composers and lyricists. While historically dominated by ballads, winners have evolved to include pop, soul, and hip-hop, such as Eminem's "Lose Yourself" (2002) and "Naatu Naatu" (2022).

### Fun Facts:

- \* **Most Wins:** Sammy Cahn and Johnny Burke both had long histories of nominations and wins, with Alan Menken also holding multiple wins.
- \* **Firsts:** "The Continental" (1934) was the first winner.
- \* **Genre Shifts:** "Theme from Shaft" (1971) was a landmark win for soul-funk, and "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp" (2005) marked a rap victory.
- \* **No. 1 Hits:** Only 18 winners have hit No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100, starting with "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head".
- \* **Double Wins:** Barbra Streisand and Jennifer Warnes are the only artists with two songs that topped the Hot 100.

~~ Wikipedia

## FDCS ANNUAL MEETING

All are invited!

Monday, June 1, 2026, at 7:00 pm  
Grace Lutheran Church, 211 S 9th Street, Fort Dodge

We review the last year briefly, consider planning for the 2026-2027 season, and address any issues and ideas that have come up. We hope you can join us!

## Songs of the Big Screen

From the moment Al Jolson started warbling on screen in 1927, songs in movies have found a treasured place in the popular consciousness. Some of the best movie songs – such as “Mona Lisa,” “Moon River” and “Happy” – have been written specifically for movies, while some tunes will forever be linked to a film because they sync so wonderfully with the drama (as in *Titanic*’s love scenes, playing out to Céline Dion singing “My Heart Will Go On”), or add vibrancy (*The Lion King*’s “Hakuna Matata”). And some movie songs are just instantly engaging to listeners, such as Ray Parker Jr.’s *Ghostbusters* theme song. These songs are lauded for defining their films and becoming cultural touchstones. They can often even eclipse their movies in popularity.

According to the American Film Institute (AFI), the top 10 movie songs are:

1. "Over the Rainbow" – *The Wizard of Oz* (1939)
2. "As Time Goes By" – *Casablanca* (1942)
3. "Singin' in the Rain" – *Singin' in the Rain* (1952)
4. "Moon River" – *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1961)
5. "White Christmas" – *Holiday Inn* (1942)
6. "Mrs. Robinson" – *The Graduate* (1967)
7. "When You Wish Upon a Star" – *Pinocchio* (1940)
8. "The Way We Were" – *The Way We Were* (1973)
9. "Stayin' Alive" – *Saturday Night Fever* (1977)
10. "The Sound of Music" – *The Sound of Music* (1965)

~~ American Film Institute

### LOVE TO SING? JOIN US!

Join us for our 2026-2027 Season  
Mondays, 7 - 9 pm, Grace Lutheran

For our start date,  
check the August newsletter or our website:  
[fdchoralsociety.org/news](http://fdchoralsociety.org/news)  
including printable rehearsal schedule



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Fort Dodge Fine Arts Association  
 on behalf of  
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 824 N 8th St  
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### Choral Passages

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