



FDCS CHORAL SOCIETY

Bringing Choral Masterworks to Life Since 1968

Choral Passages Vol. 36, No. 1, August 2025



FROM THE PODIUM

Jacob Pedersen, Artistic Director

Welcome back to another season of music with the Fort Dodge Choral Society! I hope everyone's summer was a chance to recharge, catch up, and adventure. My new adventure has been navigating homeownership and a

brand-new position as conductor for FDCS and Iowa Central Community College.

Let me take a moment to introduce myself: my name is Jacob Pedersen. I am originally from outside of Manson, Iowa. I attended Buena Vista University in Storm Lake and received my Masters in Music Education from University of South Dakota. For the past 10 years, I've taught 9-12 Vocal Music at Odebolt Arthur Battle Creek Ida Grove High School. There, I directed the High School Choir and the Fall Musical, hosted Jazz Choir and Solo/Ensemble festivals, accompanied many students and ensembles, and saw students' success in the Iowa All-State process.

My time at OABCIG came to a close last May as I accepted the Vocal Music and Humanities Instructor position at Iowa Central Community College for the 2025-26 school year. This was a chance to return home and move up professionally. I'm so excited for this new adventure both at ICCC and FDCS.

What a season we have planned! Our Fall Concert will feature music used for social justice and marginalized groups, featuring composer Kyle Pedersen's *A Vision Unfolding*. Then we hope you'll join us in December to be filled with holiday cheer. In 2026, the United States will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of our independence. Choral Society will also be celebrating this milestone in our March concert, and we will take you through a musical timeline of our country's history. Finally, we will close out the season in May with music from the big screen.

Introducing Our New Artistic Director

We are so pleased to introduce to you our new Artistic Director, Jacob Pedersen, also the new Choral Director at ICCC. Jacob has already been so fun to work with – planning for you a wonderful new season of concerts for 2025-2026 and beginning to form new opportunities and collaborations for our future. We have truly been blessed with our conductors. Jacob is Choral Society's tenth conductor, since our beginning in 1968 – all excellent.



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 26 concert:
Monday, Aug 18, 7pm



We Hope You Can Join Us!!

It's our 58th 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)

FDACS Awards Three Scholarships

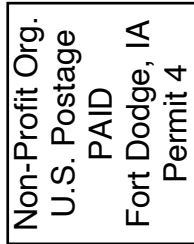
For the 2025-2026 school year, Fort Dodge Choral Society awarded \$1,000.00 scholarships to three college music majors: Aaron Amhof, Ella Hayden and Audrey Rice. The Selection Committee consisted of Emily Akker, Lynda Mumm, Greta Nelson, Sean O'Connor, Delaney Schara and Stephanie Hill. The committee reviewed seven applications from four institutions: Northwestern University (Illinois), Northwestern College (Iowa), University of Northern Iowa and Wartburg College.

Aaron Amhof, a Fort Dodge native, will be a junior at Northwestern University in Illinois, majoring in voice and opera performance and music education. Aaron was a student of Bruce Perry, the 30-year director of FDACS. Aaron sang with Choral Society for two years and was featured as a soloist several times. Aaron is a member of the Northwestern University Singers, the Renaissance Singers and is a section leader at Glencoe Union Church. He plans to attend graduate school to pursue vocal performance. This is Aaron's second FDACS scholarship award.

Ella Hayden will be a senior at Wartburg College, pursuing a double major in Music Education and Music Therapy. She is the soprano section leader as well as the librarian for the Wartburg Choir. Ella teaches a week-long summer show choir camp for third – seventh graders and is the Youth Music Director at Grace Lutheran Church in Blairstown. Her plans are to do a six-month internship to complete her double major and then to teach vocal music in a rural setting.

Audrey Rice will be a junior at Wartburg College majoring in Music Education and Vocal Performance. She is a soprano and sings with the Wartburg Choir, Kantorei, and MidKnight Jazz. She is a student conductor for the Wartburg Community Symphony, and student director for the Wartburg Players and Opera Workshop. She hopes to stay in Iowa and teach high school choir before pursuing a Masters in choral and orchestral conducting.

Stephanie Hill, Scholarship Chair



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



2025-2026 Concert Season

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Themes of social justice, featuring *A Vision Unfolding*
with violin, trumpet and percussion

3 pm, St Paul Lutheran Church

400 S Thirteenth St, Fort Dodge

Sunday, December 21, 2025

featuring Franz Schubert's *Magnificat in C*

3 pm, First United Methodist Church

127 N Tenth St, Fort Dodge

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of American Independence
with Jive for Five! brass quintet

3 pm, Decker Auditorium

Triton Circle, on ICCC campus, Fort Dodge

Sunday, May 10, 2026

Music from the big screen

3 pm, Historic Phillips Auditorium

1015 Fifth Ave N, Fort Dodge

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824 N 8th St

Fort Dodge, IA 50501

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