



FID CHORAL SOCIETY

Bringing Choral Masterworks to Life Since 1968

Choral Passages Vol. 35, No. 3, December 2024



FROM THE PODIUM

Greta Nelson, Artistic Director

The holiday season can be a special time of year, and for many, a difficult time of year. Whether you're stressed about getting all of your gifts purchased or anticipating your first Christmas without a loved one, we hope that our upcoming concert allows you to take a

moment to reflect upon and embrace the joys of the holiday season.

A piece that I am excited to share with you at our upcoming concert is Kirke Mechem's *Seven Joys of Christmas*. It includes seven movements of different carols from around the world. Some are very recognizable, and others were new to me and our singers. Each movement includes a title of Joy. The first movement is the Joy of Love; then we hear the Joy of Bells, followed by The Joy of Mary, The Joy of Children, The Joy of the New Year, The Joy of Dance, and The Joy of Song. When you find a time to pause this season, ask yourself, what are my seven joys of Christmas? It could be The Joy of the Savior's Birth, The Joy of Cookie Decorating, The Joy of Christmas Lights, and The Joy of Warm Fireplaces. The Joy of Quality Time with Grandkids, The Joy of Music Concerts, and The Joy of Winter. Amidst the chaos, grief, or whatever you may be feeling this month, I truly hope you can find the joys, big or small, that surround us.

Please join us for "The Joys of Christmas." In addition to the

Kirke Mechem, Composer



Kirke Mechem, composer of *Seven Joys of Christmas*, is often called the dean of American choral composers, who combines high artistic integrity with the ability to communicate directly with performers and audience. His *Seven Joys of Christmas* was written in Christmas 1964 for the Chamber Singers of San Francisco College for Women. The piece was dedicated to the famous British choral composer and

conductor, Randall Thompson, "with affection, and in admiration of a lifetime devoted to the joy of song." Mechem set out with the goal of setting lesser-known, attractive carols from different countries, including England, France, Germany, Japan and Spain, to paint different aspects of Christmas joy. The final carol, God bless the master of this house, is an amusing combination of all the carols in the composition, along with other well-known Christmastide melodies - familiar Christmas tunes, all piled fantastically on top of one another in a wonderful witty shout of joy.

Mechem work, we will feature pieces by Dan Forrest, John Rutter, and Shawn Kirchner. In the spirit of The Joy of Traditions, there will once again be a carol sing-along starting 15 minutes before the performance, and our small gift to you will be a bag of popcorn from Noble Popcorn in Sac City as you depart. I wish you moments of joy in the coming weeks and hope to see you for an afternoon of merriment and music on Sunday, December 22nd.

2024 – 2025 Concert Season

THE JOYS OF CHRISTMAS

featuring Kirke Mechem's *The Seven Joys of Christmas*
Sunday, December 22, 2024, 3pm
St Olaf Lutheran Church
239 N 11th St, FD

Heartfelt Harmonies

messages of love — jazz, showtunes and more
with Jive for Five! brass quintet
Sunday, March 2, 2025, 3 pm
First United Methodist Church

The Beauty of the Earth

featuring Ola Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass*
Sunday, May 4, 2025, 4 pm
(Note: special beginning time)
Grace Lutheran Church

Christmas Carol Sing-along

If you are attending our Christmas concert, consider coming 15 minutes early to join in our Christmas carol sing-along in the St Olaf Lutheran Church sanctuary. Our own Sean O'Connor, tenor, will lead the whole audience in singing familiar carols, accompanied on the piano by Jeanette Hinkeldey, our wonderful accompanist. Carol lyrics will be available.

Thank you for your support!

If you have not yet purchased your season membership (with tickets), you can do that at the ticket table at this concert. Individual concert tickets are available at the door for \$12 each. Students are always admitted free.

Meet Our New Board President



Meet our new President of the Board, our thirtieth president, Dr Mark Henry Andrew. Mark grew up on a farm in Livingston, WI, and went to college and medical school at the University of Wisconsin. He practiced as a surgeon in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa, and retired in 2019 in Webster City. He was married

twice and recently lost his lovely wife Susan to cancer. They loved to travel together, collect antiques, and share music.

Mark has three children and two stepchildren; his son Benjamin followed his father into the medical profession as a surgeon.

Mark's mother, a church choir director and organist, helped push his interest in music from an early age. He has sung in church choirs and community choruses, including Fort Dodge Harmony Brigade and Webster City Community Chorus. He also enjoys participating in musicals with the Webster City Community Theater. And, of course, Fort Dodge Choral Society. Mark began singing with us in 2009 and has served the group as a Board member for several years. This is his first year as President.

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Like to Sing?

Join us as we begin rehearsing for the March 2 concert "Heartfelt Harmonies"

Rehearsals start
Monday, January 6, 2025

7 - 9 pm
Grace Lutheran Church

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



The Fort Dodge Choral Society
presents

the joys of christmas

Sunday, December 22nd
3 pm
St. Olaf Lutheran Church
239 N 11th St.
Fort Dodge

*Experience the joys of the
season with a performance
of holiday choral classics!*

Adults - \$12, Students - Free

Choral Passages

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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:

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