



FD CHORAL SOCIETY

Bringing Choral Masterworks to Life Since 1968

Choral Passages Vol. 36, No. 3, December 2025



FROM THE PODIUM

Jacob Pedersen, Artistic Director

About fifteen minutes before our last concert began, I was asked when I would speak with the audience. I quickly responded with "I didn't know I needed to speak at all!" When I taught at OABCIG, my choir at its fullest was 156 students. My goal was always to

get them up on the risers, sing, and get them off stage as quickly as possible and keep the concert under an hour. I would usually talk to parents and community members afterwards. The biggest critique I got was that the choir sounded great, but you didn't talk at all. At this concert I will make sure to speak to you throughout the course of our music.

What does Franz Schubert's Magnificat in C have to do with the holiday season? The Magnificat is a Latin text that is spoken from the perspective of the Virgin Mary praising the Lord that her child will become the Messiah that fulfills God's promise to Abraham. Yes, that short synopsis sounds like Christmas, even though a Latin Masterwork seems a bit out of place during this season. Schubert was a very troubled young man, but I've always enjoyed his works. Usually, my voice students will always have one of his many compositions in their repertoire, but I usually don't talk enough about his background. Schubert was able to put his mental struggles down onto the music page. He wrote over 600 compositions

before the age of 20 and would succumb to illness when he was only 31. This work shows Schubert's finesse as a young composer while maintaining conservative classical technique.

Other notable compositions for this concert will feature a "moment" song called *Christmas Pipes*, made famous by Celtic Woman, I remember hearing this song for the first time at Iowa Central's Holiday Concert in 2008. *Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming* is one of my favorite Christmas hymns to sing, and it is given a new life with Midwest composer Shawn Kirchner's bluegrass style. And of course, we continue the tradition of singing Christmas carols with the audience before our concert begins - at 2:30pm.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from all of us with the Fort Dodge Choral Society. We hope you get to spend quality time with family and friends, eat great food, share gifts, and take stock of all the good things in your life. Thank you for all your support!



2025-2026 FDCS Board

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2025-2026 Concert Season

Sunday, December 21, 2025

featuring Franz Schubert's *Magnificat* in C
3 pm, First United Methodist Church
127 N 10th Street, Fort Dodge

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of American Independence
with Jive for Five! brass quintet and string ensemble
3 pm, Decker Auditorium
1 Triton Circle, ICCC campus, Fort Dodge

Sunday, May 10, 2026

Music from the big screen
3 pm, Historic Phillips Auditorium
1015 5th Ave N, Fort Dodge

Franz Peter Schubert, 1797-1828, is often described as a musical genius. He composed his Magnificat, in September 1816, at the age of 19, probably for vespers at the Lichenthal Church in Vienna. His Magnificat has been praised particularly for its lyrical, song-like melodies; its emotional depth and impact; and its structural brilliance.

The Magnificat, or "Song of Mary," is Mary's personal song of thanksgiving and a social and spiritual call to recognize how God turns the world upside down by lifting the lowly and bringing down the proud.



Franz Peter Schubert

LOVE TO SING? COME JOIN US!

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

First rehearsal for our March 8 concert:
Monday, Jan 5, 7 pm

Christmas Carol Sing-Along 2:30 pm, before the concert

Bring your family and friends early and join us for our annual Christmas Carol Sing-Along.

Caroling led by Meg Cain
with Dan Kahl, Sean O'Connor,
and Delaney Schara
Jeanette Hinkeldey, accompanist



Caroling, at least in the way we think of it today, really started to take shape in the 1800s. Before that, people did sing seasonal songs, but it wasn't organized the way it is now. In the 19th century, small groups of singers—called “waits”—would walk through towns and sing outside homes, shops, and gathering places. These groups weren't just for fun; in some towns they were almost like community musicians who helped mark special times of the year.

When these singers visited homes, people would often thank them by giving them warm drinks, little pastries, or other treats. This friendly, door-to-door tradition became known as “wassailing.” The word comes from an old English toast meaning “be healthy” or “be well,” so it was very much about sharing good cheer with neighbors.

Over time, caroling moved from the streets into churches, community events, and concerts, but the spirit behind it stayed the same. Today people still go caroling in many different ways—singing in church before services, joining community groups on cold winter nights, going door-to-door with friends, or simply singing at home while decorating or baking for the holidays.

No matter where it happens, caroling is still about bringing people together, sharing music, and passing on the warmth and joy of the Christmas season.

~ Meg Cain & www.plymouth.ac.uk

NOTE: *Twist and Shout* has listed incorrect information for our upcoming concert in their Community Calendar.

The correct date, time and place is:
December 21, 3 pm, First United Methodist Church

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



Fort Dodge Choral Society
HOLIDAY CONCERT
featuring Franz Schubert's Magnificat in C
Sunday, Dec 21, 2025 • 3:00PM
First United Methodist Church
127 N 10th Street, Fort Dodge
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:

824 N 8th St

Fort Dodge, IA 50501

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