

Fort Dodge Choral Society
Scholarships Award Program, 1998-99 to present
(last updated June 2026)

In order to support students pursuing careers in vocal music, a committee was formed in 1997 to develop, in consultation with the Board, a set of guidelines for awarding scholarships. Since that time, scholarships have been awarded to undergraduate college students majoring in a music field with vocal emphasis.

Recipients must be undergraduates with college sophomore status by the award year, and either:

- attending an Iowa college/university, **OR**
- from the Fort Dodge area, attending any college or university.

In 2003, a stipulation was added that a person can be awarded the scholarship a total of two times.

Our scholarship program began with the 1998-99 school year. Scholarships began at \$200 and increased to \$500; they increased to \$1,000 in 2015. In July 2025, the Board voted to increase scholarships to \$1,500, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. Funds for scholarships are derived from money budgeted each year from the regular budget and from the separate Scholarship Reserve Fund, to which anyone may contribute.

In 2019, an additional funding source for scholarships was established through the Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way, titled The Fort Dodge Choral Society Collegiate Singers Fund. Annually, after FDCS awards a scholarship from the general budget, an additional scholarship may be awarded from The Collegiate Singers Fund, if there are sufficient funds. Anyone can donate to that fund - contact Randy Kuhlman at the Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way, 515-573-3171.

Also, FDCS often receives gifts in memory of former singers; these memorial gifts are sometimes specifically donated to the Scholarship Reserve Fund to fund FDCS scholarships. Music performances are occasionally organized to raise funds for FDCS scholarships.

We know that these scholarships help encourage young men and women to keep singing throughout their lives, in their communities and often as part of their professional work. Our 2012 scholarship recipient, Jessica Ann Faselt, went on to win the 2018 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in New York. Several scholarship recipients have returned to sing with FDCS later in life.

RECIPIENTS:

Award Date	Academic Year	Name	Major	College/ University	Award Amount
(From 2018 FDCS History Booklet)	1998-99	Nicholas Bromley Kelly Horst		Simpson College Luther College	\$400 \$200
(From 2018 FDCS History Booklet)	1999-00	Kevin Drew James Haase Justin Hill		UNI Univ of Iowa Indian Hills CC	\$350
(From 2018 FDCS History Booklet)	2000-01	Martin Fox James Haase		Simpson College Univ of Iowa	\$500
(From 2018 FDCS History Booklet)	2001-02	Martin Fox Nate Johnson		Simpson College Cleveland Institute	\$600
(From 2018 FDCS History Booklet)	2002-03	Angela Dencklau Julia Ellerston Nate Johnson Jonathon Wilke		Wartburg College UNI Cleveland Institute Univ of Iowa	\$500

Award Date	Academic Year	Name	Major	College/ University	Award Amount
(From 2018 FD CS History Booklet)	2003-04	Kelly Flynn Susan Hoesel Nate Johnson Mara Ostermeier		Luther College Simpson College Cleveland Institute Wartburg College	\$500
(From 2018 FD CS History Booklet)	2004-05	Sarah Carlson Mara Ostermeier		UNI Wartburg College	\$500
(From 2018 FD CS History Booklet)	2005-06	Sarah Carlson Burke Lisa DeVries Jenna Ziems		UNI Dordt Univ Luther College	\$500
(From 2018 FD CS History Booklet)	2006-07	Lisa DeVries Zylstra Daniel Lanveg Matt Tschimperle Taja Will		Dordt Univ Northwestern College Luther College Luther College	\$500
(From 2018 FD CS History Booklet)	2007-08	Lauren Hartman Jill Phillips Matt Tschimperle Taja Will		Simpson College Luther College Luther College Luther College	\$500
(From 2018 FD CS History Booklet)	2008-09	Anthony DiMeglio Aliese Hoesel Jill Phillips		Drake Univ Simpson College Luther College	\$500
(From 2018 FD CS History Booklet)	2009-10	Brett Epperson Lauren Hackenmiller Janet Stone		Luther College Simpson College Coe College	\$500
(From 2018 FD CS History Booklet)	2010-11	Aliese Hoesel Jessica Mallow Leah Podzimek Marie Sorenson		Simpson College Simpson College Wartburg College Wartburg College	\$500
(From 2018 FD CS History Booklet)	2011-12	Sara Draffen Christopher Ellerston		UNI Central College	\$500
(From 2018 FD CS History Booklet)	2012-13	Jessica Ann Faselt		Univ of Iowa	\$500
(From 2018 FD CS History Booklet)	2013-14	Sophia Huang Callie Jo Whitefield		Luther College Wartburg College	\$500
(From 2018 FD CS History Booklet)	2014-15	<i>None awarded</i>			
(From 2018 FD CS History Booklet)	2015-16	MacKenzie Walsh		Wartburg College	\$1000
(From 2018 FD CS History Booklet)	2016-17	Natalie Gordon Mollie Lawler		Simpson College Drake Univ	\$1000
(From 2018 FD CS History Booklet)	2017-18	Hillary Erb Sarah Ganey Michael Richardson		St. Ambrose Univ Drake Univ Buena Vista Univ	\$1000
May 2018 Chair: DeAnne Dunsdon	2018-19	Riley Anderson Matthew Shuka	Music Ed Music Ed	Wartburg College Northwestern College	\$1000

Award Date	Academic Year	Name	Major	College/ University	Award Amount
May 2019 Chair: DeAnne Dunsdon	2019-20	Levi Capesius Evelyn Ames Schwartz Galstad Norah (Benjamin) Wolfe	Mus Ed & Vocal Perf Vocal Perf Vocal Perf	Wartburg College Luther College Univ of Iowa	\$1000
May 2020 Chair: DeAnne Dunsdon	2020-21	Ashlynn Anderson Collin Ellsbury Alexander Gray Lindsey Zuidema	Vocal Mus Ed Music Theater Vocal Perf Choral & Inst Music Ed	Northwestern College Oklahoma City Univ Simpson College Dordt Univ	\$1000
May 2021 Chair: DeAnne Dunsdon	2021-22	Collin Ellsbury Carter Hayden Natalie Keenan	Mus Theatr & Vocal Perf Vocal Mus Ed Vocal Mus Ed	Oklahoma City Univ Wartburg College Wartburg College	\$1000
May 2022 Chair: DeAnne Dunsdon	2022-23	Ethan Elsbend Carter Hayden Jack McInnis Noah Pottorf	Vocal Perf Music Ed Music Ed Music Ed	Univ of Iowa Wartburg College Wartburg College Morningside Univ	\$1000
May 2023 Chair: Stephanie Hill	2023-24	Jamie Knox Nolan O'Connor Lennon Schriever	Vocal Mus Ed Vocal Perf Vocal Perf	UNI Transylvania Univ Wartburg College	\$1000
May 2024 Chair: Stephanie Hill	2024-25	Aaron Amhof Marcus Antunez Jack McInnis	Vocal Perf & Music Ed Vocal Perf & Environ Sci Music Ed	Northwestern Univ Univ of Iowa Wartburg College	Bruce Perry Memorial \$1000 \$1000 DeAnne Dunsdon Memorial \$1000
May 2025 Chair: Stephanie Hill	2025-26	Aaron Amhof Audrey Bell Ella Hayden	Vocal Perf & Music Ed Vocal Perf & Music Ed Music Ed & Mus Therapy	Northwestern Univ Wartburg College Wartburg College	\$1000
May 2026 Chair: Stephanie Hill	2026-27	Audrey Bell Zach Midtling Michael Wagner	Vocal Perf & Music Ed Music Education Music Education	Wartburg College UNI UNI	\$1500
	Total to Present 2026-2027	79			\$57,350