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FORT DODGE CHORAL SOCIETY

Bringing Choral Works to Life Since 1968

Choral Passages, Vol. 30, No. 3, December 2019



From The Podium

Bruce Perry, Conductor

*Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright.*

When life becomes frenzied, we long for calmness. Sitting by a fireplace listening to thundering Brahms piano pieces or thrilling Puccini arias or translucent Strauss songs helps me find my inner calm. The sounds of silence can make my mind go into unwanted overdrive. Bright lights instill anything but calmness for me. Franz Gruber's beloved carol *Silent Night* is filled with contrasting ideas. Quaking shepherds are certainly not calm. Night is never as bright as day. Hosts of angels singing Alleluia belie the concept of silence.

Christmas, like *Silent Night*, brings contrasting emotions. For some, it is joyful; for others, the sadness of memory can become overwhelming. Our December 15 concert mirrors the multitude of emotions that is Christmas. Jive for Five, organ, choir, and audience is not silent, but it is the perfect way to celebrate the many moods of Christmas. Sparkling arrangements of traditional carols, thrilling sounds of Daniel Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata*, and the quiet calm of simple melodies mirror the beauty of the season.

The opportunity to work with Jive for Five is always a thrill. Their skill, collegiality, and tremendous musicianship mirror the host of angels singing more than 2000 years ago. Combining their talents with the beauty of human voices is a special gift.

Come early to enjoy Christmas treats and the opportunity to sing familiar carols. Bring a friend to celebrate the warmth of community, the joy of music, and the blessings of the season. Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year filled with the joy of music.

A Season of Silence

Silent Night

Christmas without *Silent Night* does not feel like Christmas. Special guests Jive for Five! brass quintet will help celebrate the festive season.

Sunday, December 15, 2019—3:00 PM
Reception 2:00 pm—Sing-a-long 2:30 pm
First United Methodist Church,
127 N 10th Street, Fort Dodge

Breaking the Silence

There comes a time when we cannot keep silent. Whether talking about cancer, homelessness, world peace, or child safety, composers have created powerful works to help us break the silence.

Sunday, March 8, 2020—3:00 PM
Grace Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge

Music from Silence

Jake Runestad's *A Silence Haunts Me* pairs with Beethoven's *Mass in C* to celebrate Beethoven's 250th birthday. Guest soloists and orchestra combine with choir to celebrate the composer's immortal legacy.

Sunday, May 3, 2020—4:00 PM
St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge



**Dan Cassady, trombone; Dave Swaroff, trumpet;
Kathy Yoakam, horn; Tim Miller, trumpet;
and Paul Bloomquist, tuba**

Jive for Five! and Fort Dodge Choral Society have enjoyed frequent collaborations, including Memley's *Gloria* and *Magnificat*, John Carter's *The Crown of Peace*, and Christmas works ranging from Gabrielli to Ben Allaway. The scope of the quintet's repertoire is a great testament to the group's technical and musical skill. Jive! is in great demand throughout the area.



Silent Night

Franz Gruber's setting of Father Joseph Mohr's lilting poem *Stille Nacht* was first sung by the poet and composer on December 24, 1818, at Christmas Eve mass in St. Nicholas Parish in Overndorf in what is now Austria. The original version was for guitar and voices. In the ensuing years, the carol has become synonymous with candle-lit services.

The original German poem has been translated into more than 140 different languages. Bing Crosby's recording of the famous carol is the third best selling single of all time.

A remarkable event happened in 1914. During the Christmas truce of WWI, thousands of British, French, and Belgium troops stepped out of their trenches and mingled with the enemy German troops. Many accounts mention soldiers singing *Silent Night*, each in his own language, as warfare was put aside for one silent, peaceful night.

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Join us as we begin rehearsing for our March 8 concert. First rehearsal is at Grace Lutheran Church, 7:30-9:30 Monday, January 6, 2020.
For more information, call 515-979-5620

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sunday, december 15
concert 3 pm
reception 2 pm, sing-a-long 2:30 pm
first united methodist church

silent night

fort dodge choral society and jive for five