



HICKORY CHORAL SOCIETY

STILL WE SING

2026-2027 Concert Season

49 Years of Inspiring, Educating, and
Connecting Through Song

FALL CONCERT OVERVIEW

by Ryan Luhrs, Artistic Director

The Hickory Choral Society begins its new season, **Still We Sing**, with a concert of remembrance and renewal. The program reflects on challenges that have shaped the first twenty-five years of the 21st century, including September 11, political polarization, the COVID-19 pandemic, and Hurricane Helene. These experiences have brought grief, uncertainty, division, and loss, but they have also reminded us of the power of gathering, remembering, and standing together.



The first half begins with Troy Robertson's "In Meeting We Are Blessed," celebrating the simple but profound gift of gathering together. After the isolation of the pandemic, singing in person before live audiences is something we no longer take for granted. "Undivided," recorded virtually by the Hickory Choral Society in 2020 during the pandemic, but now offered live in its entirety, follows with a meditation on harmony as a metaphor for human relationships: individual voices remain distinct while finding strength in listening to one another.

Ola Gjeilo's riveting "Dark Night of the Soul" features a string quartet and virtuosic piano accompaniment. The 16th-century poetry by St. John of the Cross describes a period of profound spiritual crisis and emotional exhaustion. The music moves between turbulence, passion, tranquility, and hope. The first half continues with the "Kyrie" from René Clausen's *Memorial*, written in remembrance of those lost on September 11, and concludes with former Lenoir-Rhyne University Professor of Music Paul D. Weber's stirring arrangement of "God Bless America."

The second half turns toward Western North Carolina and the resilience of communities affected by Hurricane Helene. Joined by Asheville-based bluegrass

band Aubrey Eisenman & The Clydes, HCS offers music of community, faith, loss, and perseverance, including “Angel Band,” “Ghost Town,” “I’ll Fly Away,” “Hard Times Come Again No More,” and “Will the Circle Be Unbroken.” This portion of the program reprises the HCS’s October 10 performance at the North Carolina American Choral Directors Association Conference in Asheville.

Taken as a whole, the concert recognizes our capacity to support one another and find renewal together. Please join us October 18, 3pm at First Baptist, Hickory as we gather, remember, rebuild, and *sing*.

AUBREY EISENMAN & THE CLYDES



The second half of our fall concert will feature Asheville-based bluegrass band, Aubrey Eisenman & The Clydes, and will feature their original song “Ghost Town.”

To learn more about Aubrey Eisenman & The Clydes and listen to their music, [visit their website](#).

MEMBERSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE

If you would like to support Hickory Choral Society in our 49th season, we still have memberships available. Our contributing members allow us to continue sharing the joy of music with you.

All Season Memberships provide the following benefits:

- Reserved seating for Fall, Christmas, and Spring (number of seats varies by level)
- Live streaming of the Fall, Spring, and Saturday evening Christmas concert, available for 7 days
- Senior Discount for 65 or older

To become a member, visit the [Memberships page](#) on our website.

MEMBERSHIP RECEPTION



All contributing members of the Hickory Choral Society for season 49 are cordially invited to join us at a reception ***immediately following*** our Fall Concert on **Sunday, October 18, 2026.**

The reception will be held at **Lake Hickory Country Club**: 430 17th Ave NW, Hickory, NC.

DIGITAL PROGRAM

This fall concert, we are debuting a digital program in an effort to reduce our environmental impact. At the venue, there will be QR codes for you to scan with your phone's camera that will take you directly to our concert program.

THANK YOU, UNDERWRITERS

The Hickory Choral Society sincerely thanks the following Underwriters for their generous support of this concert:



Hickory Choral Society is a funded affiliate of Arts Culture Catawba.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE SEATING

Make sure to check your email **the first week of November** for a message from the HCS Office about when reserved seating opens for our Christmas performances. Seats can be reserved online or by calling the office at 828-322-2210.



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STILL WE SING

2026-2027 Concert Season

FALL CONCERT

*featuring Asheville-based
Bluegrass Band
Aubrey Eisenman & The Clydes*

October 18, 2026 | 3:00 pm
First Baptist Church, Hickory

SPRING CONCERT

*featuring Morten Lauridsen's
Lux Aeterna*

March 21, 2027 | 3:00 pm
First Baptist Church, Hickory

COOKIES & CAROLS

a children's holiday concert

December 5, 2026 | 11:00 am
Ridgeview Community Center, Hickory

SINGING ON THE SQUARE

May 15, 2027 | 7:00 pm
Courthouse Square,
Downtown Morganton

May 16, 2027 | 7:00 pm
Union Square,
Downtown Hickory

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 11, 2026 | 7:30 pm
December 12, 2026 | 3:00 pm & 7:30 pm
December 13, 2026 | 3:00 pm
Corinth Reformed Church, Hickory

 **Hickory Choral Society**

 **@hickorychoralsociety**

 **hickorychoralsociety.org**



All concerts are free to attend. A portion of seating is open to the general public, however donors with a Seasonal Membership get reserved seating along with other benefits. For seasonal membership information, visit our website or call our office at (828) 322-2210.