Celebrating the Arts

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CELEBRATING THE ARTS

Sometimes, as an issue takes shape, there are moments of serendipity—a theme that surfaces in one article finds a conversation partner in another, or a question posed early on is explored later in more depth.

Ultimately, these dovetails and connections reflect a culture of vibrant interdisciplinarity, and it’s my favorite part of watching each issue of the Voice come together.

This issue is no different—though readers may discern a clearer thread of continuity running across our pages. In the planning stages, we noticed that many of the stories we wanted to tell had something to do with the fine arts. The 30th anniversary of the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra is on the horizon, and an article celebrating the orchestra’s unique partnership with Dordt College seemed timely. Also, there’s a new band in town, the Ruralists. And we continued to hear of alumni finding success on the Twin Cities arts scene, prompting a broader look at the fine arts at Dordt and after.

Perhaps it’s another kind of serendipity that, in a time of deep national division, many of the stories that came to us this issue are about art. Art, done well, can help us talk to one another; it can teach us to recognize the humanity in others (and with whom we might strenuously disagree).

But art needn’t be deeply serious, and this issue is also a celebration—of the fine arts, but also of the creative spirit that animates the work of all learning, reflecting the image of our Creator in us.

ALEISA DORNBIERER-SCHAT, EDITOR