Last spring, Sioux Center Resident Mrs. Robert (Caroline) Vermeer donated a framed music manuscript to the Dordt College music office. Vermeer had purchased the piece 25 years ago at a gift shop. The manuscript is a Latin chant written on a five-line staff with neumes, the medieval form of notes. The music appeared to be a page from a medieval or Renaissance choir book, so Music Professor Karen DeMol decided to investigate further to determine its authenticity.

DeMol met with Dr. Robert Kendrick of the University of Chicago and Dr. Lucia Marchi of DePaul University, both specialists in medieval manuscripts, who confirmed that the donated manuscript is authentic. They told DeMol that the five-line staff suggests that the page dates from about 1500, and that the piece was likely commissioned by a rather wealthy individual, since it is written on very high quality, white parchment. Kendrick believes the manuscript is Italian.

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