



SCHOLÉ HOUSE

in the company of friends

Artists, Musicians and Patrons, Oh my! **Common Art for the Common Good**



Dear Scholé Friends,

As it turned out, both of our lectures this fall were connected to the Arts. Erik Bonkovski, pastor of City Church, spoke on the the meaning that physical beauty brings to community life, specifically in the form of Richmond's vibrant murals, available to anyone walking down the sidewalk to get a cup of coffee.

Bonkovski related the story of the painter and author Makoto Fujimura, who early in his career had a disagreement with his wife. His career had not yet taken off and they were struggling financially; the fridge was empty and they were

out of cash. When his wife came home with a bouquet of flowers, Fujimura was angry: "how could you think of buying flowers when we can't even eat!" he asked.

"We need to feed our souls, too," his wife responded. "It's not enough to feed the body," she said, "we must feed our souls."

Bonkovski went on to discuss the concept of common grace especially as it applies to the arts, where we are called to imitate God "who makes the rain to fall on the just and the unjust alike." The church and individuals can all support and promote the arts, even if you are not a member of the Medici family!

The Anatomy of a Song



Our most recent lecture included a concert on our donated baby grand piano. Composer and keyboardist David Jonghak Kim teaches keyboarding and composition at VCU and performs with a wide variety of venues and locations. He was selected as the 2025 commissioned composer for the Virginia Music Teachers' Association (VMTA).

In this lecture and concert, Kim walked us through the strenuous work of composing a full length piece that just made its public debut on November 8th. The music, inspired by the Korean folk song "*Arirang*," reflected the turmoil that Kim was experiencing in his personal life: of loss of a loved one, personal health issues, of faith struggles and questions, and of family sadness. The music told a story, related in dissident chords, intervals, dramatic percussion, tranquility and then ended on a dissent chord, for as Kim related, it is like life — we are all in the middle of a story.

Scripture is not shy of the arts: many of the Psalms are set to specific tunes; the temple designs and craftsmanship reflect unabashed beauty without need to resort to symbol or analogy. The text of scripture is poem and prose, interview and vision. Miriam danced and David sang. We know that the arts are one of the many ways that God communicates to us and that we communicate to each other and back to God. At Scholé House, we are continuing to look for ways to thoughtfully integrate the life of the mind as well as the walk of beauty.



2025 Year End Gifts

As we round the corner on the fall semester, we would like to ask you to consider a year end gift. We hope to raise an additional \$25,000 to allow us to start the new year strong. Gifts to Scholé House can be made in the form of checks, website donations, stock or real estate. More information can be found at our website.

Your support for Scholé House is support for our mission:

*Dedicated to the scholars and students at VCU and the surrounding community,
Scholé House is a gathering place for seeking goodness, truth and beauty
and for exploring a Christian vision for human flourishing—
in order to renew our restless and splintered lives.*

In Care and Gratitude,
Missy

Contributions to Scholé House are entirely tax-deductible. Checks can be made to Scholé House, c/o Wendy Kliwer, Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Box 842018, Richmond VA 23284-2018 or on our website at scholehousestudycenter.org.