

# MUSIC AND THE SOUL: A SOCRATIC APPROACH

A Talk by Dr. Michael Krom of St. Vincent College



*The Danger of Music: Plato's Wrath Against Naked Dancers*

Nietzsche once said that "without music, life would be a mistake." We lovers of music know exactly what he means here: we have been moved, disturbed, made joyous, or despairing, by the muse of melody and poetic verse. Why does music have this effect on us? What does it mean for us? Can music be good or bad for us? Is there a moral aspect to creating music or to listening to it? In this talk we will discuss Socrates's theory of the relationship between music and the soul, using musical selections to illustrate his teaching.



**Speaker Bio:** Michael P. Krom is chair of the philosophy department at Saint Vincent College (Latrobe, PA), director of the Saint Vincent College Faith and Reason Summer Program, and a coordinator for philosophical formation at Saint Vincent Seminary. His teaching focuses on the relationship between science, philosophy and theology, and his research is in moral, economic, and political theory. He is currently working on a book for advanced undergraduates, seminarians, and Catholic intellectuals tentatively entitled *Justice and Charity: A Thomistic Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching*. Michael and his wife, Jessica, have six children and are parishioners at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Bradenville, PA, where he serves as CCD instructor.