We were most fortunate, during this tenth anniversary of the Macalester International Roundtable, to bring to campus four world-renowned performers of Korean traditional music. Master Byung-Ki Hwang engaged us with an extraordinary performance on the kayagum of his own compositions as well as traditional songs. Ms. Il-Ryun Kim, Mr. Jae-Won Lim, and Mr. Chung Soo Lee also delighted us with their outstanding performances. In addition, these gracious musicians gave a workshop for our students. We are very grateful for their visit and the opportunity to introduce rarely heard Korean music to our community.

We were also gratified to facilitate the bestowal of a Macalester Honorary degree upon President Kyungsook Lee of Sookmyung Women’s University in Seoul, Korea. For that event, we welcomed back to campus two former Presidents of Macalester, Robert M. Gavin and Michael S. McPherson. Undoubtedly, it was their unwavering commitment to the value of the International Roundtable that helped institutionalize it. We are fortunate to have had them as our leaders at such creative and critical moments.

The Macalester College International Roundtable experience is always enhanced by the conscientious work of College staff. Members of the International Center staff, particularly Aaron Colhapp, were very helpful with logistics. Students were also notably helpful and include Emily Cintora and Hanna Morrill (proofreading this volume), Andrew Musoke (hosting and carpooling), Na Yeon Oh (translator), and Sumeet Atul (moderator).

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The Macalester International Roundtable, an intellectual festival convened each October, is an occasion for serious conversations across the College on topics of transnational significance. The practice is to commission a set of essays, spearheaded by a keynote address. These essays, delivered by seasoned scholars, become the center of debate and discussion. Each essay receives a public response from a Macalester student and a member of the faculty, rounded out by a joint conversation among the main authors. The purposes of the Roundtable are to cogitate together upon crucial but difficult global questions
and to cultivate further the equipoise that minds of the Macalester academic community have long been expected to hold between local anxieties and transnational pressures.