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Winthrop University

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Inspirations of Two Famous Composers Explored in Latest Spotlight on Scholarship Series

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA -- When Winthrop University Professor of Music Matthew Manwarren recorded his newest album, "Youthful Passion and Fantasy," he set out to promote the art of piano-playing and its tradition.

Now he will share that tradition with the campus Oct. 8 as the latest entry in the Provost's Spotlight on Scholarship series.

Beginning at 11 a.m. in Dinkins Auditorium, Manwarren will trace the background of famed composer Robert Schumann, his wife Clara, and their relationship with fellow composer Johannes Brahms.

This relationship is at the heart of the inspiration for Manwarren's album selections. The accomplished pianist chose Schumann's “Fantasy in C Major” and Johannes Brahms’ “Sonata No. 3.” Both are early works of both composers, he explained, and both were written at the height of the romantic period, when pieces focused on passion and love.

Manwarren has said he considers the pieces two of the greatest pinnacles of the piano repertoire, calling them “tremendously difficult works.”

“Youthful Passion and Fantasy,” released on the Americus label, was recorded last November in New York City. Production was made possible with grants from the S.C. Arts Commission, the York County Arts Council and a start-up campaign on Indiegogo, a website that helps entrepreneurs raise money for their projects. The Americus label has submitted it for a Grammy nomination.

All are encouraged to attend the Lunch and Learn session. Beverages will be provided.

For more information, contact Meg Webber at webberm@winthrop.edu or 803/323-2220.