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Catawba River Baroque to Perform at Winthrop

ROCK HILL, S.C. — A newly formed ensemble of local talent from Charlotte will give a special performance at Winthrop University on Monday, Nov. 18, as part of Winthrop’s Friends of the Conservatory series.

The Catawba River Baroque features soprano Margaret Carpenter, violinist Emily Chatham, flutist Kelly Roudabush, gamba player Gail Schroeder and harpsichordist Murray Somerville. The group focuses on music from the Baroque period and plays exclusively on instruments that were available in that time. The members hope to replicate the authentic sound audiences heard in the Baroque period.

The ensemble members either have been in the area working as professional musicians or have recently relocated to the area. Carpenter, an alumna of the St. Peter’s Choir School in Charlotte, recently completed graduate study in England. Chatham is a violinist in the Charlotte Symphony and a specialist in the Baroque violin. New to the area, Roudabush was looking for opportunities to perform in a Baroque ensemble and found her way to the group. Somerville, who recently moved to the area, was artistic and founding director of Music City Baroque in Nashville. In addition to his credits, Somerville was a founder of the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra during his tenure there as the university organist. Under his direction, the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra won the Bodky Award of the Cambridge Early Music Society.

Pieces performed during Monday’s concert will include works by Krieger, Biber, Mattheson, Purcell, Handel, Bach and Clerambault.

The concert, which is at 7:30 p.m. in Frances May Barnes Recital Hall, is a cultural event. Tickets are $10 for the general public and $5 for students with ID.

For more information call the Department of Music at 803/323-2255 or visit the website.