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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TRYON PALACE - SOUTH LAWN SUMMER CONCERT
"CRAVEN COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND"
SUNDAY, MAY 23 – FREE!**

(NEW BERN, NC) --- Music will fill the air as the Tryon Palace South Lawn Summer Concert season kicks off with the Craven Community Concert Band on Sunday, May 23. The entrances on Pollock, Eden and Metcalf Street will open to the public at 5 p.m. allowing visitors plenty of time to tour the gardens and enjoy a picnic on the South Lawn before the concert begins at 6:30 p.m. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets for seating, but asked to leave pets and alcoholic beverages at home.

The Craven Community Concert Band will perform under the direction of Mike Laird, who is currently director of the USMC 2d Marine Division Band at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

The program will contain several marches, including Richard L. Saucedo's *Meeting at Tryon Palace*, *Columbian March* and *A Salute to Freedom*. There will also be a *Fantasy on American Folk Songs*, *A Southern Hymn* and *Salute to Bob Hope*. As always the Tryon Palace concert will conclude with the *Armed Forces Salute*, when all who have served in the United States Armed Forces are asked to stand as their branch hymn is played.

The 50 member band has presented three concerts each year since 2000. The membership includes high school students, working adults, and retirees. Several are current or former band directors or professional musicians. Others played in high school or college bands and simply enjoy the opportunity to play in an organized group.

If you are interested in joining the band, or want more information about this concert, a complete program and directions to the auditorium can be found at the Band's web site:

www.cravencommunityconcertband.org

Other upcoming musical events include a free lecture in the Tryon Palace Visitor Center auditorium on Thursday, May 27 at 7 p.m. with Dr. Kevin Moll. Dr. Moll is an associate professor of musicology at East Carolina University, as well as director of the university's interdisciplinary Medieval & Renaissance Studies Program. Dr. Moll's lecture is entitled, "The State of Classical Music in Europe around the time of New Bern's founding." This period of music is often referred to by historians as the later Baroque style.

And, on Tuesday, June 22, the North Carolina Symphony is coming to New Bern to perform a free concert on the South Lawn at Tryon Palace. ###

The Department of Cultural Resources is a state agency dedicated to the promotion and protection of North Carolina's arts, history, and culture. For more information, visit www.ncculture.com

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens' mission is to engage present and future generations in the history of North Carolina from early settlement and development of statehood through the mid-twentieth century by collecting, interpreting and preserving objects, buildings, landscapes and events that enrich understanding of the making of our state and nation.

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, located in New Bern, N.C., is part of the Office of Archives and History, an agency of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. The Department of Cultural Resources is a state agency dedicated to the promotion and protection of North Carolina's arts, history, and culture. For more information, visit www.ncculture.com.

Buildings currently open to the public include the reconstructed Palace, the John Wright Stanly House, the George W. Dixon House, and the Robert Hay House. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Last tours begin at 4:30 p.m. The New Bern Academy Museum will re-open as a Civil War Museum in 2011. Ticket and tour information is available at the Tryon Palace Visitor Center located at the corner of George and Pollock street.

The Visitors Center and the first floor of the Governor's Palace and gardens are accessible to visitors with disabilities.

The 60,000 square foot North Carolina History Center is scheduled to open in August 2010.

For directions and further information about special events, programs or group tours, phone (800) 767-1560 or (252) 514-4900 or visit our web site: www.tryonpalace.org.