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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“The State of Classical Music in Europe
around the Time of New Bern’s Founding”**

Dr. Kevin Moll, East Carolina University School of Music

Thursday, May 27 – 7 p.m. Free!

(NEW BERN, NC) ---Dr. Kevin Moll will present a free lecture focusing on the state of art and music during the period of New Bern’s founding at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 27. This period of music is often referred to by historians as the later Baroque style.

European emigrants to the New World came in the hopes they would find better conditions than those obtained in their native countries. But while renouncing political and religious vested interests gained them greater freedom, it also came at a price. One consequence of early life in America is that these settlers had largely to abandon the rich heritage of art and music that had been characteristic of European culture since the High Middle Ages.

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Dr. Moll's discussion will emphasize the achievements of such notable composers as Corelli, Vivaldi, Handel, and Bach, as well as other issues of interest. He will also touch upon the kinds of music that were most typical of the New World settlers at that time, which by necessity tended to be simpler and more limited.

Dr. Moll holds the B.A. in history from the University of Pennsylvania and the M.M. degree in musicology from New England Conservatory. He received his Ph.D. in historical musicology from Stanford University, with a dissertation on French liturgical polyphony of the fourteenth century. He is currently associate professor of musicology at East Carolina University, as well as director of the university's interdisciplinary Medieval & Renaissance Studies Program. # # #

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 next year. Ticket and tour information is available at the Visitor Center located at the corner of George and Pollock streets.

The Visitor Center and the first floor of the Governor's Palace and gardens are accessible to visitors with disabilities. The North Carolina History Education Center is under construction and is scheduled to open mid-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.