



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 28, 2017

CONTACT: Connie Engart, CAPC Community Education and Outreach Coordinator, cengart@catawbacountync.gov or 828-465-9296.

NEW SONG TO DEBUT AT CAPC'S PINWHEEL CEREMONY APRIL 5

HICKORY -- The Hickory community will have the opportunity to hear the debut of a new song entitled "Rescue Me" as part of the Pinwheel Ceremony that will take place at the Zahra Baker All Children's Playground at noon on April 5.

This event is hosted each April by the Children's Advocacy and Protection Center of Catawba County in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Pinwheel Ceremony will begin at noon at Zahra Baker All Children's Playground at Kiwanis Park in Hickory, located at 805 Sixth St. SE, Hickory. The public is invited to attend the brief ceremony.

Peter Corneliussen, music director and organist at Corinth Reformed Church in Hickory, composed "Rescue Me" especially for this event. Caroline Collins, a junior at Hickory Christian Academy, will perform the song, accompanied by Corneliussen on keyboard.

The composer said: "My heart is deeply troubled and moved by the tragedy of abuse that children face in shockingly large numbers, even in our own community, behind closed doors or even out in the open. The song 'Rescue Me' is a call for all of us to be aware and respond and is a cry of the frantic, panicked child, mashing the mobile phone keypad with frozen uncontrollable fingers, fighting to see through their tears – trying to call, to be rescued. It is a plea for someone to help, to pick up the phone, to listen, to respond, to save them."



Peter Corneliussen

In an attempt to help make the listener of the song a part of the anguish of a panicked, suffering child and sense the urgent need of response, Peter has embedded telephone numbers that any child needs to remember. The song begins and ends with the musical numbers 911 sung to the words "rescue me" and the telephone number of Child Protective Services (324-9111) is incorporated in the musical motifs in many different forms. This is the 24-hour Help Line to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

Corneliussen moved to Hickory with his wife, Lisa, and sons Garrett and Shane in 2001. He held church music positions in several states prior to coming to Hickory. He earned his doctor of musical arts and master of music degrees at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and his



bachelor of arts degree in music performance and secondary education at Whittier College in California.

Following graduation from Whittier College, Corneliussen spent 18 months as a Fulbright Scholarship recipient studying at the Hochschule fuer Musik in Saarbruecken, Germany. He was born in Utica, N.Y., but spent most of his younger years in Santa Cruz, Calif., where his father was the senior pastor at a church.

Corneliussen has also written the musical drama, *The Darkest Side of Midnight*, the biblical story of Mary Magdalene and the last seven days of Jesus's life. That musical drama will premiere at the Newton-Conover Auditorium on March 30. More information about *The Darkest Side of Midnight* may be found at www.facebook.com/thedarkestsideofmidnight.



*Caroline
Collins*

Caroline Collins has grown up performing, and has had the opportunity to perform at venues in the United States and on tour in Austria and Germany with the Lenoir-Rhyne Youth Chorus. Her vocal honors include being selected to participate as regionalist in the NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing), classical music competition, winning her division in the Fall, 2016 NATS state audition, being selected to attend 2016 North Carolina Governor's School for Choral Music, and being invited to perform in both the 2015 and 2016 Bach Lunch and Listen Series at the Newton Conover Auditorium. Her many interests include acting, and she is active in many school clubs as well.

The Children's Advocacy and Protection Center of Catawba County is now selling pinwheels in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, which is observed in April.

Pinwheels are \$2 each and may be purchased online at www.catawbacountycapc.org/pinwheels.htm. These pinwheels will be placed in a community pinwheel garden immediately before the Pinwheels for Prevention ceremony at Zahra Baker All Children's Playground in Hickory. Those who purchase 25 or more pinwheels will have their name or the name of their business listed as an event sponsor.

The pinwheels will be available for pickup by the sponsors following this event or at the CAPC. Those purchasing the pinwheels are encouraged to replant them at their home or place of business to show their support for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The CAPC is a non-profit organization that works to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse and serious physical abuse. It coordinates the efforts of Catawba County Social Services, law enforcement, and the District Attorney's office.

More information about the CAPC is available on its website at catawbacountycapc.org. You may call the center at 828-465-9296. For more information about the pinwheels, email cengart@catawbacountync.gov.

###