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## **WRITING + ART + MUSIC: FOCUSING ON CREATIVE SYNERGY IN *NCLR* 2017**

“North Carolina Literature and the Other Arts” is the special feature section topic of the 2017 *North Carolina Literary Review (NCLR)*. This issue, coming in June, highlights artists who find inspiration in one genre for creative work in other genres. This creative synergy reflects the breadth and depth of Editor Margaret Bauer’s knowledge of so many multi-talented North Carolina writers as she celebrates 20 years of editing *NCLR* and 20 years of helping define our literary culture.

Bauer’s dedication to her work and the real joy she takes in helping writers, artists, and musicians find their way into the journal’s pages have made *NCLR* an award-winning journal *and* a very pleasurable read. *NCLR*’s awards include five from the Council of Editors of Learned Journals: the Best New Journal award in 1994, the Best Journal Design award in 1999 and 2010, the Parnassus Award for Significant Editorial Achievement in 2007, and the Phoenix Award for Significant Editorial Achievement in 2014.

According to Bauer, this year’s theme was inspired by the creation and production of an opera based on Charles Frazier’s novel *Cold Mountain* (coming to North Carolina September 28 and October 1). Western Carolina University Music History Professor Christina Reitz explores the novel and the opera in her essay. And, the novel-opera transformation also inspired a poem sequence by North Carolina Poet Laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer who hopes to find a composer to set it to music.

Longtime NC favorite Clyde Edgerton is interviewed by George Hovis who discusses Edgerton’s writing, music, teaching, and latest artistic endeavor—painting. The strong connection between the literary and the visual is Art Editor Diane Rodman’s specialty, and her 10 years of selecting the art that complement a literary work’s theme is explored in an essay by Randall Wilhelm. His essay will help readers see nuance and suggestion in Rodman’s art choices and the graphic designers’ layouts as they read fiction by Michael Parker and poetry by Betty Adcock, James Applewhite, Kathryn Stripling Byer, Fred Chappell, and Robert Morgan.

Always expanding the literary circle, Bauer seeks out emerging writers. Among those in this year’s issue is the winner of the 2016 Doris Betts Fiction Prize, Chapel Hill resident Anita Collins—“The Anderson Kid” is her first publication. Another new writer is Michael Götting,

born and raised in Germany but with roots in North Carolina, whose writing is inspired by music. Jim Coby interviews North Carolina native Matthew Griffin about his debut novel, *Hide*, and what inspired him to write about a love affair set just after WWII.

Of special interest to residents of Greenville, where *NCLR* is produced at East Carolina University, is an essay by Mary Kathryn Thornton about the town's book clubs and their remarkable civic engagement for over a century and an interview by Brian Glover with Garth Risk Hallberg, who grew up in Greenville, about his novel *City on Fire* and the influence of music on his writing.

While *NCLR* remains a production of ECU's Department of English, this issue begins a new partnership with The University of North Carolina Press as publisher and distributor. Additional support is provided by the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association. For more information about *NCLR* and to subscribe to the print issue, visit [www.nclr.ecu.edu](http://www.nclr.ecu.edu).

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