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Exploring unfamiliar territory

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Rebel, a Netherlands period instrument ensemble currently in residence at Trinity Church in New York City, offered one of those fill-in-the-gaps programs Sunday at Second Church of Christ Scientist near USC.

Most of the 17th century composers were unfamiliar. Nicolaus Bruhns Franz Tunder, Johann Rosenmüller and John Jacob Froberger will be recognized only by specialists. Heinrich Biber and Dietrich Buxtehude are names for most of us, known more in the breach than in the observance. It's always nice to hear new music, but there were no discoveries of neglected masterpieces.

Still, Rebel violinists Karen Marie Marmer and Jorg-Michael Schsrarz, cellist John Moran and organist Dongsok Shin played with vigor and commitment. Highlights included Biber's Partita in D minor from , "Harrnonia artiffciosa-ariosa," which made use of specially tuned strings for technical and ~ coloristic effect as, and a stoic Rosenmuller Sonata in E minor.

Guest soloist Curtis Streetman applied his sonorous and agile bass voice to Bruhns' sornber "De Prufundis clamavi" and jolly "Mein Heiz ist bereit," Tunder's sweet "O Jesu duclissime" and Buxtehude's bucolic "Ich bin eine Blume zu Saron."

The concert was part of the Chamber Music in Historic Sites series by the Da Camera Society of Mount St. Mary's College.