

THE CAT'S MEOW



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Larry Conger To Bring Christmas Cheer!

Capital Senior Center at Maxcy Gregg Park (just off Pickens near Blossom)

2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, December 8, 2019

(Please note that this will be the second Sunday in December in order to avoid a conflict with the Thanksgiving Holidays).

Our special guest this month, Larry Conger, has been a real friend to the Carolina Jazz Society throughout the years. I don't know what songs Larry will call but you can be sure that whatever he calls, they will be the sounds of early jazz. And you are likely to hear some very good tunes that aren't on the top 40 list.

To bring newer members up to date, Larry grew up in California but came east to get a degree from Ithaca College in NY. Then he returned to California and honed his chops playing with Turk Murphy at Earthquake McGoon's in San Francisco.

Then after Larry moved to SC, he played an important role in the history of the Carolina Jazz Society. He found that the best jazz musicians in the area were members of the Carolina Jazz Society House Band and recruited several of them when he formed his "Two River's Jazz Band" (**by the way, you can still order a recording of the Two Rivers Band from Amazon**).

But there was synergy; The "West Coast Revival" brought the songs and sounds of traditional jazz from the South to the West Coast and now songs from the west were introduced into this area. For example, there is "Sage Hen Strut" by Lu Watters and the Yerba Buena Jazz Band (Lu happened upon mating sage hens while he was hiking in a desert area in California and wanted to capture the exuberant mating display in a song).

THE CAROLINA JAZZ SOCIETY was founded in 1958 to enjoy Dixieland Jazz, one of America's original art forms. Concerts are \$8 for non-members, \$4 for members, free for Patrons and young people under 18.

Larry Conger (cont).

If you've ever watched the mating display on a nature program, I think you would agree that he succeeded. And "Big Bear Stomp" is another song you might want to check out.

You can probably find both on "You Tube". Big Bear Stomp was a tribute to The Big Bear Lodge located in the Sierras. That's where the band stayed when they were practicing new pieces before a new season began.

Wilmington NC Jazz Festival

It's a bit early but it might take some planning on your part if you want to attend the Jazz Festival in Wilmington NC. There's not a lot of dixieland at the festival but there is a wide variety of jazz by top notch musicians playing in a room with good acoustics no matter where you are sitting. And it is a non-smoking venue (the festival was started by a doctor who had a band in Wilmington. But if you are a smoker, you can step out onto the patio to get your nicotine fix).

This is the 40th anniversary of the festival. **But beware if you are buying tickets on-line.** The festival name was not trademarked and another group began using the same name or a very similar one). But you'll get the right group if you go to "<https://ncjazzfestival.org>".

Ben Polcer will be one of the new musicians this year (you may remember that Ben's father, Ed, was a special guest at several of our concerts in the 70's and early 80's). And Ed was featured at the Wilmington Festival for many years.

Unfortunately, Bria Skonberg, one of my favorite trumpet players and vocalists, won't be at the festival this year. But if you are a fan of hers, you can find one of her songs "This is the day" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLsf4-kiozQ>.

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