

THE CAT'S MEOW



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Dan Levinson Joins the Gang!

Capital Senior Center at Maxcy Gregg Park (just off Pickens near Blossom)
2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, February 10, 2013

Note that this is the second Sunday in February. And we will have not one, but **two great clarinetists** this month with Dan Levinson joining Doug and the rest of our guys. Dan is much in demand for his skill on both clarinet and sax. We are lucky Dan could squeeze us in on his busy schedule (check it out at <http://danlevinson.blogspot.com/>). But to give you an idea, take a quick look at where he will be playing in the next two months (Potsdam, Germany, Munich, Germany, Morristown, NJ, New York, NY, Grayslake, IL, Bloomington, IL, Toms River, NJ, London, England, Dublin, Ireland, Cologne, Germany, Madison, NJ, Wilmington, NC, **Columbia, SC**, Saratoga Springs, NY, Riverhead, NY, Whippany, NJ, Flushing, NY, Morristown, NJ & Washington Township, NJ).

Like most professional musicians, Dan plays with several bands in a wide range of styles. You can sample some of his various offerings at www.danlevinson.com. I think you will like what you hear! I first heard Dan at the **Orange County Classic Jazz Festival** and pegged him as an outstanding talent. He will be playing at the **North Carolina Jazz Festival** in Wilmington, NC just before our concert and that means we can bring him here without breaking the bank on travel costs.

Dan is originally from California but is based in NY now. He plays regularly in **Vince Giordano's Nighthawks Orchestra** as heard regularly at Sofia's in NYC. And the Nighthawks have been frequent guests on **A Prairie Home Companion**. They've **also** provided special music in many films & TV shows (Boardwalk Empire, Away We Go, Revolutionary Road, The Aviator) and lots more. Dan plays in groups that run the gamut in historic jazz from "The Original Dixieland Jazz Band", to "Paul Whiteman's groups" to the "John Kirby Sextet". **Bring Friends and make this a party. I think it will be a treat for the guys in the band, all the regulars in the club and all the friends you bring.**

I don't know how many of you have heard Kirby but he had a tight ensemble with a very distinctive sound. It was billed as the "Biggest Little Band in the Land" with Charlie Shavers on trumpet, Russell Procope on alto sax, Buster Bailey on clarinet, Billy Kyle on piano, O'Neil Spencer on drums and Kirby on Bass. Some critics referred to their music as "chamber jazz". Maxine Sullivan, was married to Kirby and sang with the group for a while. Of course, long time club members will remember Maxine from her gigs with the Carolina Jazz Society. She was well up in years at the time

but had an amazingly youthful voice. She was one of my favorite singers (not many made my list).
You can find a number of Kirby's recordings on the web and they still sound fresh.

THE CAROLINA JAZZ SOCIETY was founded in 1958 to enjoy Dixieland Jazz, one of America's original art forms.
Concerts are \$10 for non-members, \$5 for members, free for Patrons and young people under 18.

Paul Whiteman

The other thing I learned on Dan's website is that Paul Whiteman also had a small group he pulled out the big band, reminiscent of the Bob Cat's, the small group pulled out of Bob Crosby's big band. Whiteman's small group was called "Swing Wing". I never heard Whiteman's small group but I was never that enthralled with Whiteman's orchestra even though he had some marvelous musicians in the band. On the other hand, he made jazz "respectable" for a much larger audience. For society jazz of the era, I preferred Jean Goldkette's orchestra (out of Detroit). Of course Goldkette had Bix Beiderbeck and Frankie Trumbauer in the group before Whiteman recruited them.

Dutch Swing College

As a bonus during my web search, I discovered recordings of the "**Dutch Swing College**", a strange name, but one of my favorite bands of all time. The group formed right after WWII in the Netherlands and quickly made its mark. This band also featured two great clarinetists (check out their version of "Waiting for the Sunrise" at www.youtube.com/watch?v=6E0rjylWLfs). And a later version of the band the band doing "Back Home Again In Indiana" features Bert Boeren on trombone. He plays with a modern jazz style that's not my cup of tea but it is a real tour de force. It's at www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tCvUc-siYk.

Dutch Swing College formed in 1945 (almost undoubtedly after hearing dixieland bands touring armed forces camps, perhaps Jimmy and Marion McPartland. And Dutch Swing College is still performing today. But, of course, there has been a big change in personnel over those 68 years. That's even longer than the Carolina Jazz Society has been around

Red Smith, Editor

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