

THE CAT'S MEOW



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Multi-Talented - Multi-Instrumentalist Jim Ruth to Join Us!

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

2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, May 4, 2014

There's good news and there's bad news! First, the good news. Jim Ruth will be our featured guest and I really enjoy the interplay when he and Doug get together. Now, the bad news; Doug won't be playing. He is having a quick medical procedure and won't be allowed to play for a week or two. But wait! There's more good news; **Bruce Clark will be back and will call the tunes.** But that's not all. There's even more good news. **Personnel of the Lourie Center will be treating us to an old fashion ice-cream social.** And I think I know the reason. We're good stewards. We don't leave the place in a terrible mess (I've seen what the room looks like following a fraternity party and it's not a pretty sight).

Long time members will remember conditions at our previous location. There was limited parking and awkward seating. But the final straw was a leaking roof that caused ceiling tiles to fall on members during a concert. Conditions were so bad that it put the club in a downward spiral. Then, when we moved to what is now the Lourie Center, we got very good acoustics along with a nice layout. And there was an unexpected bonus. The Lourie Center is non-smoking. A lot of former members returned now that we were smoke free.

Personnel from the Lourie Center will be dipping the ice cream and that will give us a chance to thank them. I don't know for sure who will be here but key people at the Lourie Center are Mary Kessler - Executive Director, Stephanie Benjamin - Program and Marketing, David Fleming - Facilities Manager & Vanessa Whitehead - executive assistant). Let them know how glad we are to be here. And be sure to thank them for the ice-cream.

Tom Hall

We had lots of compliments about our last concert and it was nice to have members of the Blythewood Jazz Orchestra here. Thanks to Gene Long for making this happen.

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.

Jim Ruth

A man of many talents, clarinetist Jim Ruth is a widely respected musician and educator. Jim plays all the reed instruments as well as the trombone, drums, bass and banjo. He began his professional career as a member of the Canadian Forces Big Band and was also a member of their Dixieland band. After his discharge, Jim played with symphonies in both Canada and Minnesota and with the many Dixieland bands on the river boats in Minneapolis.

Shortly after moving to Charlotte, Jim joined the Southern Fried Jazz Band. At one gig, he gave Don (the leader) a Dixieland CD and asked him to "check it out". Don said, "that's a good band. Who else is in the band". Jim replied, "**No one, that was all me.**"

When not working with the Southern Fried, Jim continues to perform with name acts and bands around the Southeast. And the last I heard, he is still playing with the Charlotte Symphony. Jim also keeps busy with a large teaching practice. He is one of the most respected reed teachers in the greater Charlotte area. I don't know about you but I, for one, would love to have Jim as a regular member of our group. Maybe it might happen if membership in the club keeps growing.

Special Visitors

I don't know whether things will work out but the guy who sets up tables each month, plans to invite a group of people who've had substance abuse problems to this concert. He says too many sit at home all day with nothing to do. He thinks our music will make them feel better. It just might work. I know it makes me feel better. And if it works for these people, that will make me feel even better! Let's make them feel welcome.

The Larsens (Fran & RR)

The Larsens were enthusiastic, long time members of our Society. And before each concert, Fran would call a radio talk show to let people know about our concert. But when they decided they needed smaller digs, they moved to a retirement community in the Jacksonville, Florida area. Recently, I got a nice note from Fran saying how much they missed our concerts. To emphasize the point, she included a donation. **Thanks Fran!** But don't feel too sorry for them. Their retirement community has its own golf course. And they discovered that the Preservation Hall Jazz Band is part of the Fine Arts Series. Still that's just one concert and we have nine.

Butch Thompson's Webcasts

I've had a chance to listen to several of Butch Thompson's web casts now. He's covered a variety of musicians and included a number of rare recordings. I especially liked his web-cast featuring Fats Waller. It demonstrated just what a superb pianist Fats was. Another web cast featured the great New Orleans Clarinetist, Johnny Dodds. Again, Butch found remarkably good recordings from that era.

Red Smith, Editor