

THE CAT'S MEOW



PO BOX 50806

Columbia, South Carolina 29250

803-432-1504

Doug Graham to Open Our New Season!

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

2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, September 7, 2014

What better way to start the new season than Doug Graham bringing us a taste of New Orleans – a musical taste that is. And that's what Doug will bring for our opener.

The terms "great musician" & "nice guy" don't always apply to the same person (especially musicians????). But those words do apply to our guys. And we're not the only ones who recognize that. **Doug was honored by former students at "clarinetfest" an international event that was held in Baton Rouge this summer.** I'm sure it was a special moment for everyone concerned. The event ended with eleven of Doug's Students playing Dick's arrangement of "I'll Be Seeing You". It takes a special guy for so many former students to want to show up for a tribute like this.

Earlier in the event, a former student, John Bittle and percussionist Mathew Jones, performed movements from Dick's composition "Seven Deadly Sins" written especially for Doug and Jim Hall. I gather there were lots of comments and much merriment when they got to "Sloth". But my guess is that term has never applied to any great musician.

Well, there's Woody Herman. Late in his career, he didn't even warm up his own clarinet. He had an assistant who did that as well as taking care of other trivial details like booking dates and transportation. But then, Woody played four hours every night. At least that's the story I heard from someone who knew Woody. And playing four hours before an audience most every night would keep your chops in good condition. By the way, I can never think of Woody (speaking of great clarinetists) without hearing "Wood Choppers Ball" in my musical memory.

But then, remembering "Woodchoppers's Ball" immediately brings to mind Artie Shaw and the "Gramercy Five", my favorite of all Shaw's recordings. Artie was always experimenting and looking for something new. And the Gramercy Five featured Johny Guarnieri on harpsichord. The group had a unique sound.

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.

A bit more on Artie Shaw

At his peak, Artie was making \$60,000 per week, this back in the 40's when cars were maybe \$2000. He was drawing in a lot of money but he had a lot of musicians on the payroll what with a big band plus violins. But Artie must have saved a good bit because he walked away from the music business at the height of his career. Speculation is that he was such a perfectionist that even he couldn't live up to his high standards.

On the other hand, no one has ever accused me of being a perfectionist. I found a link that I think said Artie studied higher math after leaving the music business. One problem, when I tried to double check my memory, I couldn't find the link. But it would fit with Artie's personality. He was both a complex man and a great clarinetist.

Don't forget about Butch Thompson's Webcasts

You need a certain amount of computer literacy and a reasonably fast connection to the internet, but Butch covers a variety of musicians, often playing very rare recordings. He has done a couple of web-cast featuring Fats Waller. They really demonstrated just what a superb pianist Fats was. I have no idea how Butch is able to find these recordings. Some were from weekly radio broadcasts Fats made in the 40's. Other's were recordings that were never released.

Another web cast featured the great New Orleans Clarinetist, Johnny Dodds. Again, Butch found remarkably good recordings from that era.

But Butch is also a really fine piano player himself. If you get a chance, listen to his "Ecuadorian Memories". Strangely, at least so far, Butch has never featured his own recordings.

By the way, I had a chance to talk to Butch a few years ago. He mentioned that he used to sit-in with our guys at Carolina Jazz Society concerts. At that time Butch was in the military and stationed at Camp Gordon in Georgia. He would come up for our concerts but always played the clarinet because Ralph Goodwin was the regular pianist and a founding member. But, hey! It fits! We're still featuring clarinetists.

Mark our Concert Dates On Your Calendar

We always meet on the first Sunday of the month unless there is a conflict with a major Holiday. Here is the list for this year: Sept 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1, **Apr 12** (to avoid conflict with Easter) and May 3.

Helpful hint: If you are renewing you membership or becoming a new member, go to the desk on the left and renew your membership or join the club first. It will save you money on your admission. **And don't forget, if you become a member at the Patron level, you never have to stand in line to pay admission. Just walk in and find a seat with your friends!**

Red Smith, Editor

Carolina Jazz Society Membership Form

Annual Membership Categories (Please Circle):

Regular Member – Single	\$20
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Patron Member – Single	\$100
Patron Member – Family	\$150

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Carolina Jazz Society
Post Office Box 50806
Columbia, SC 29250