

# THE CAT'S MEOW



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## Dick Goodwin Pulls His Own Name Out of the Hat

Lourie Center at Maxcy Gregg Park (just off Pickens near Blossom)  
2:30-5:00 pm, Sunday, February 1, 2015

It's been a while since Dick has called the tunes. But when he does, it is enjoyable, educational, entertaining, fun, and (well you can probably think of some more adjectives). It always amazes me that Dick (and the rest of the band) can be so proficient in so many different musical genre. As most of you will remember, Dick did arrangements for the USC marching band some years ago and broadened their musical horizons when he introduced them to "Thus Spake Zarathustra" (better known as the theme from 2001) as the fanfare when the football team runs out onto the field at Williams Brice Stadium. Sporting News once called it "the most exciting pregame entry" in college football.



Of course classical fans recognize that the piece was composed by Richard Strauss and used in Stanley Kubrick's 1968 film "2001; A space Odyssey". That film it turns out, was codeveloped by Kubrick and science fiction writer Arthur C. Clark, one of the "big three science fiction writers". The others were Isaac Asimov & Robert Heinlein.

Long time members will also remember that one of Dick's compositions was recorded by the Warsaw Symphony. But most people around Columbia know Dick as the leader of a modern jazz quintet and the Dick Goodwin Big Band. Speaking of which, the Big Band has been the featured orchestra for the New Years Celebration at the Newberry Opera House for many years now. That gig came about when a nationally known big band scheduled for the New Years party at the Opera House canceled on short notice. A

jazz club member and fellow DuPonter (whose face I can remember but not his name) recommended Dick to Debra Smith, Newberry Opera House Director. And before the concert was half over, Debra already had a contact ready for Dick to sign for next year's party. That's how his Big Band became a regular tradition in Newberry. And that led, I think, to a yearly concert at the Camden Fine Arts Center.

But that's not all. Dick has a recording studio, plays with visiting musicians, works on musicals with Trustus Theater and is the go-to guy whenever there is a special musical need in the area. Plus, he donated a CD for last month's raffle. Like I said, he's not only talented but an all around good guy!

### **Wilmington Jazz Festival**

I've gone to the Wilmington Jazz Festival in NC for many years (by the way, I was introduced to the festival by fellow members of the Carolina Jazz Society). There's a lot to like about this festival. **Most importantly, the acoustics in the ballroom are really good and I don't think there is a poor seat in the ballroom.** Because the festival runs from Thursday through Saturday and often falls on the same weekend as our concerts, we've been able to use the festival to our advantage to get really good musicians as our guests. That's because transportation costs are a very significant part of the fee needed to get name musicians to Columbia and I have been able to offer a "come ride with me" service.

I would love to get one of the festival's newer musicians, Bria Skonberg, to Columbia. Bria is a young lady who can really blow. She plays a fine trumpet. She got her start as a teenager playing in a very good, all girl Dixieland band in British Columbia. She is now based in New York. Another musician at the festival I like is Nicki Parrot, the fine Australian bassist and singer. And there's her compatriot, Adrian Cunningham, who is also an Aussie. It's fun when they team up and do some Australian bits. Furthermore, Adrian plays sax and sings. Plus, he is also a spectacular flutist (flautist?). Then, there's Herman Burney. Any band would love to have him on bass.

Ed Polcer, another old friend of ours, plays the festival regularly. Back when our club was larger and we could afford it, we got Ed as a special guest almost every year. But that must have been before Dick joined our band and took over the trumpet spot. Another musician at the festival I like is Chuck Redd who plays vibes. We got Chuck (I think) to play at one of our concerts. He teamed up with Doug to do a tribute to Benny Goodwin that was really special.

I don't know whether tickets are still available for the NC festival. But Wilmington is only about a three hour drive from Columbia and all concerts there are in the Hilton Riverside. That makes it really convenient.

Red Smith, Editor