

THE CAT'S MEOW



PO BOX 50806 Columbia, South Carolina 29250 803-432-1504

Reggie

Jim Ruth, the Fine Clarinetist Out of Charlotte, Will Join Doug and the Band This Month

Lourie Center at Maxcy Gregg Park (just off Pickens near Blossom)
2:30-5:00 pm, Sunday, May 1, 2016



It's been a long time, too long in fact, since Jim Ruth made the trip down from Charlotte to play with our guys. We are about to rectify that.

We first heard about Jim from Jack Sutherland, our former trombonist from Tega Cay. Jack said, "there's a new guy in Charlotte who plays a great clarinet and soprano sax. It would be fun to hear Jim and Doug play together." And was Jack ever right! It was an exciting concert. And he's been back several times but not recently.

A man of many talents, clarinetist Jim Ruth, is a widely respected musician and educator who hails from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Along with the clarinet, Jim plays all the reed instruments as well as the trombone, drums, bass and banjo.

Jim began his professional career as a member of the Canadian Forces Big Band and was also a member of the Canadian Forces Dixieland band. After his discharge, he worked as a per service player with symphonies in both Canada and Minnesota. During that time he also performed with many Dixieland bands on the river boats in Minneapolis.

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 (cont)

Jim also is a member of the Charlotte Symphony. I continue to be amazed at the versatility of the musicians who play with us. **This is a concert you don't want to miss.** And you might want to bring a friend.

And there's more good news. Bruce Clark has agreed to write a monthly column drawing on his long experience as a middle school band director, as our trombonist and with his work with both the Dick Goodwin Modern Jazz Quintet and the Dick Goodwin Big Band. He can also draw on stories his mother has told of her experience in the music business. His first column will appear next fall.

Nice Note From the Larsens

I also got a nice note from Fran Larsen (She and Bob were long time members of the Carolina Jazz Society). They moved to Jacksonville because a retirement village there has a good golf course (Bob's other passion). Fran adds that their neighbor was a big band drummer in the Chicago Area and they often get together with him for dinner. And together, they are slowly getting a group interested in Jazz.

Fran's note was occasioned by my reference to Brea Skonberg, leader of "Mighty Aphrodite". Fran says that she and Bob had a chance to hear "Mighty Aphrodite" on a cruise they took a few years ago. That band included all seven original members of the dixieland band the girls formed in high school in Canada. Of course, Brea is one of my favorite musicians.

Speaking of Cruises, I got the following from my cousin, Norm Gary, who lives in Sacramento. A couple were trying to have a quiet diner on a cruise ship while a duo was providing music for the diners. But what the duo lacked in talent, they made up for in volume. The couple asked their waiter if the duo could play anything. "Yes Madam, they are very versatile". "In that case would you ask them to play chess". Hey, try writing the newsletter for as long as I have. You'd run short of material too. That's one of the reasons, I'm excited about Bruce becoming a guest columnist.

As I've mentioned before, I listen to a podcast that Butch Thompson does on KBEM in Minneapolis. As I've often noted, he often finds very rare recordings. One he played recently was Louis Armstrong playing with King Oliver shortly after Louis arrived in Chicago. In this particular recording, Louis played a pin whistle and he made even that sound pretty good.

Red Smith, Editor (farrensmith@bellsouth.net)