

THE CAT'S MEOW



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

Dick Goodwin Brings His Big Band!

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

2:30 to near 5:00 pm, Sunday, July, 24, 2016

Do you suffer from withdrawal during the summer drought? No Carolina Jazz Concerts from early May till the week after Labor Day? Do you miss the special friends you see only at our concerts? Or maybe you miss the special vibe you get at live concerts? **Never fear! Dick and his Big Band will be here (and they will bring a different sound to buck you up)!**

Dick generously offered to put on a special concert at the Lourie Center especially for our members. But the general public is invited as well! As you know, Big Bands dominated the jazz scene during the late 30's, 40's and early 50's. But traditional jazz maintained a strong hold on many jazz lovers and several big bands paid homage with small groups featuring musicians pulled from the regular musicians. Tommy Dorsey had the "Clambake Seven" and his brother, Jimmy always had a good small group as part of his concerts. I suspect we may see a bit of that happening at this concert. And that's good because it will introduce traditional jazz to a wider audience.

But the set-up will be different. **Don't bring goodies.** This will be a formal concert with concert style seating. Have a nice lunch and plan on having a nice dinner after the concert. But do come prepared to hear some first class musicians playing a bevy of great songs.

And come early to be assured of a good seat. I'm guessing we'll see a lot of people who don't come to our concerts but do come to all of Dick's Big Band concerts.

Key point: This concert will give the Lourie Center one more really big draw for the summer.

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.

By the way, what (who?) was your favorite Big Band? I would put Woody Herman high up on my list with Woodchopper's Ball being a favorite. But they had a bunch of other fine songs. And Artie Shaw had a special sound. What was the name of his theme song he played as his closing number? I think it might have been "Nightmare". Check it out and let me know what you think. I'm sure you can find it on the internet. And his Gramercy Five used a harpsichord to get a Unique sound! Then there's Benny Goodman who covered the waterfront with his trio, quartet, quintet, and sextet in addition to his Big Band. As most of you know, I'm not a big fan of vocalists but I enjoyed Benny's first girl singer, Hellen Ward. I remember her version of "You Turned the Tables on Me".

But wait! I was about to forget Count Basie (I heard the Basie Group in Chicago in the 50's when it was at the top of its form). On the popular front there was Glenn Miller, a pilot himself, who was lost flying from Great Britain to France during WWII. But his musicians, always well rehearsed, carried on the tour without him. What's more, there are groups who are still touring using the Miller arrangements to keep the genre alive. Of course, there was Duke Ellington. But I always liked the early Ellington Bands better than the later ones (I suspect I'm in the minority on that).

Plus there were some fine Bands out of Great Britain right after WWII. There was Kenny Ball with "Midnight in Moscow". And I liked anything with Monty Sunshine in it. Acker Bilk was another favorite of mine – take a listen to "Stranger on the Shore". Ken Collier was another. Plus there were some fine Traditional Jazz Bands in Great Britain (remember, the band from the Jenkins Orphanage introduced Jazz to Great Britain early on). And several British musicians visited New Orleans after hearing records of American Jazz. They played with some of the aged pioneers, absorbing the new medium. Then the influx of American soldiers and the records they brought with them during WWII did much to inspire the formation of some very good British bands.

Long time members will remember another Brit, Michael Atterbury, who played fine clarinet and sax and often sat in with our guys. After Barkley's Bank transferred him back home, his wife, Margaret, began producing concerts. She formed the Woking Jazz Circle and used contacts from the US to get performers like Kenny Davern, Yank Lawson, Ken Peplowski, Ralph Sutton and Scott Hamilton.

Lastly, there was the "Dutch Swing College" with two really good clarinetists playing both small group and Big Band Jazz.

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