

# THE CAT'S MEOW



PO BOX 50806

Columbia, South Carolina 29250

803-432-1504

## A Belated New Year's Celebration

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

2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, January 8, 2017

**This will be the second Sunday of the new year!** That's because New Year's Day falls on the First Sunday and some of you may be feeling effects from that fun, exuberant party you attended the night before. Plus most of our musicians would have been working that weekend, perhaps into the wee hours.

And there is an advantage to meeting on the second Sunday. It will give everyone a chance to restart the new year on a very harmonious note without the turmoil that happens near the first. And celebrate, we will.

Dick Goodwin will call the tunes once again with Dustin Retzlaff subbing on bass. Dustin plays a fine bass and I'm pleased that he will be on the band-stand with the rest of our guys. Another illustration of just how lucky we are that Dick is the band manager. Without Dick's many contacts, we would be in a panic trying to find a bassist.

On the other hand, Dick tells me that he will miss our concert in March because he will be in Missouri for the premier of a new piece he has composed. Then he added, " don't worry because I've already arranged for Larry Conger to lead that month. See what I mean about how lucky we are.

What's more, Dick has a good reason for being away. He will be in Missouri for the premier of a new work that he composed. How cool is that!

I continue to be amazed by the versatility of our musicians. I remember hearing classically trained musicians try to play jazz in the 30's and 40's. They were embarrassingly bad. But our guys do both and do them very well.

What's more, Dick introduced lots of USC students and fans to both Richard Strauss and Friedrich Nietzsche by using "Thus Spoke Zarathustra" as the theme played when the USC football team took to the field before the game.

### Dick Goodwin (continued)

Of course, "Thus Spoke Zarathustra" might be better known as "2001, The Space Odyssey". This is just another example of how thoroughly Dick covers the musical waterfront (to use a bad metaphor).

And as most of our members know, Dick also has a modern jazz quintet and a Big Band, and for the special concert he put on this summer, he had a **REALLY BIG** "Big Band".

Then, from time to time, you might see Dick take over on bass and if something special is needed on piano, **who else but Dick Goodwin!**

Dick's instrument of choice is the trumpet. I've never heard him play any of the others in that family of instruments. But one of my favorite musicians, Bix Beiderbeck played cornet and has the most wonderful tone. But the trumpet has a more piercing tone and can stand out more easily in ensemble playing. I like both in the hands of a good musician. Of course, Larry Conger plays cornet and you will get to hear him when he takes over for Dick at our March. concert.

Then there is the flugelhorn. I'm not sure what the technical differences are between the three instruments. Miles Davis primary instrument was the trumpet but he dabbled with the flugelhorn. And it was Clark Terry's instrument of choice, likewise for Chuck Mangione.

Looking back, two names stand out on trumpet, Louis Armstrong and Harry James. But Bunny Berrigan also has some great solos. Sadly, Berrigan and Beiderbeck both lost their lives to alcoholism at a young age. That seems to be an occupational hazard for jazz musicians (but not for our guys!).

Of course going all the way back to early New Orleans, there was the legendary Buddy Bolden, whose trumpet could, reportedly, be heard all the way across Lake Pontchartrain. Sadly, he was never recorded (he was afraid younger musicians would be able to copy his style (beginning symptoms of paranoia?). Then, his career ended prematurely when he was committed to a mental institution. The next two important New Orleans trumpet players took the sounds and traditions of New Orleans North to Chicago.

King Oliver made the move to Chicago in 1918 and quickly became established at the Lincoln Gardens. And possibly as a result of failing health, he wired Louis Armstrong with a job offer. King Oliver and Louis Armstrong made history with those recordings. By the way, if you are put off by Armstrong's poor tone quality, find the recordings he made in the early 30's in California. You will hear Louis hitting the high notes and playing with a clean, clear sound. Butch Thompson found these early recordings and played them on his podcast on radio station, KBEM in Minneapolis. I think you will be entranced by what you hear.

Red Smith, Editor