

# THE CAT'S MEOW



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## Home-Town Boy Makes Good

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

2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, April 2, 2017

Dick Goodwin missed our concert last month but for a good reason. He was premiering a new work he wrote just for the occasion in his hometown of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. How cool is that! Here's a link to pictures taken at the world premier of his new composition:

<http://krccu.org/post/world-premiere-cape-girardeau-natives-choral-and-orchestral-piece-honors-river-campus#stream/0>

And obviously, it's not jazz but it is another example of his great versatility. Dick was born and grew up (I think) in Cape Girardeau and when the hometown crowd discovered what a stellar career Dick had in the world of music, they decided they needed to recognize his accomplishments.

They commissioned a piece for the local classical orchestra to play. And if I remember correctly, they started out asking for a short 10 minute piece. Then they looked at the rest of the concert and said, "Could you make it 15 minutes?" A few days later, they thought about it and said, how about making it 20 minutes. Eventually, they settled for 30 minutes. And that is what the people in his home town got to hear!

But as always, Dick came up with a really good sub. He asked Larry Conger to fill in and I don't think I've ever heard Larry play better. We got to hear a master of the cornet. I know that the trumpet and the cornet are in the same family of musical instruments. And that caused me to wonder what the difference really was between a trumpet and a cornet. I know that they sound a bit different and here is what I learned on the internet.

## **Here's what Norman's Musical Instruments had to say:**

“The fundamental difference between a trumpet and a cornet is in the shape of the bore (tubing diameter) throughout the instrument (excluding the bell flare section). On a Trumpet the bore is Cylindrical, having a consistent diameter throughout the instrument, whereas a Cornet has a Conical bore which gradually increases in size down the length of the tubing. This makes a huge difference to the type of sound that is produced with the Trumpet giving a very piercing, direct sound (think Fanfares) and the Cornet a warmer, softer, rounder sound”.

But these Larry and Dick get a bigger difference than that out of their respective instruments. Dick gets a wide variety of sounds out of his trumpet what with growls, mutes and sliding(?) notes. (I'm sure professional musicians are cringing at my description but if any professional musician wants to offer an improved description, I'll include it in the next newsletter).

Meanwhile Larry plays a more direct open style. And Larry gets a lot of power out of his cornet. That was essential in the days before amplifiers came on the scene and that is exemplified by some of the early New Orleans musicians. Buddy Bolden, reportedly, could be heard all the way across Lake Pontchartrain. And King Oliver also played cornet. Louis Armstrong started on Cornet switching to trumpet later.

But, in my opinion, if you want to hear the “Master of Mutes” take a listen to Sidney DeParis on almost any recording of the band lead by his brother, Wilbur. In addition to the standard mutes you can buy in the store, Sidney used a wide variety of mutes including a metal cup like the ones issued to the doughboys in WWI, a French Beret, a standard drinking glass a la Jack Teagarden and a whole lot more.

Wilbur DeParis and his “New New Orleans Jazz Band” was a long time fixture at Jimmy Ryan's on 52nd St. You can find some of their recordings on “You Tube”.

I also love listening to Muggsy Spanier who used mutes to great effect. He was also at home on both cornet and trumpet. By the way, if you have not listened to any of the recordings he made with Sidney Bechet, you are in for a real treat. Search for “Bechet-Spanier Big Four”. One of Spanier's compositions “Relaxin at the Turo” is a really nice song that was written after Spanier recovered from a perforated stomach ulcer. He credited Dr. Alton Ochsner who founded the Ochsner Clinic with saving his life.

**By the way; to make up for missing last month's concert, Dick pulled his own name out of the hat to lead this month.**

Red Smith, Editor