

THE CAT'S MEOW



PO BOX 50806

Columbia, South Carolina 29250

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Our Favorite Clarinetist to Open the Season Again!

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

2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, September 10, 2016

Note: Because of Labor Day, this is the second Sunday in September.

Doug Graham led the group on our first concert of the 2016-2017 season and his name was called to get us off to a fine start again this season. But there will be some changes on the bandstand. Charlie Polk, who plays lead trumpet in Dick Goodwin's Big Band, will be filling in for Dick. Charlie got the call because Dick will be in NYC meeting with ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) that weekend. I don't know anymore than that but I'm guessing one of Dick's Compositions or maybe a CD is about to hit the big time. Another example of the versatility and talent of our musicians. **And how cool is that!**

With Doug is on the bandstand, you can always be assured of hearing really fine jazz. Strangely, Doug considers himself to be primarily a classical musician. That's startling to me because most of the classical musicians I've heard have no feel for the music. In almost every case, the result was embarrassingly bad. But that's not the case with Doug. It is immediately obvious to anyone that Doug is a really fine jazz musician.

But that's not the only difference you'll see on the bandstand. Michael Wilkinson, the new trombone prof at USC will be on trombone. But Bruce may drop by and join in a bit (we're rooting for a full recovery but Bruce continues to have some medical problems that limit his playing time). And Sam Edwards will be on bass. But rest assured that Aletha Jacobs will be on keyboards and Jim Hall will be in his usual spot on drums.

Changing subjects; I was a member of the the American Federation of Jazz Societies before that organization folded. And I was asked what factors allowed the Carolina Jazz Society to prosper for such a long time (as most of you know, we are the oldest continuously active jazz society east of the Mississippi and one of the oldest in the world). I think there are a variety of factors but **Bob Hickman**, our newest board member, has written an eloquent paean to jazz that put in words one reason why our society has prospered for so long.

THE CAROLINA JAZZ SOCIETY was founded in 1958 to enjoy Dixieland Jazz, one of America's original art forms

WHY I LOVE JAZZ, by Bob Hickman

On Sunday, September 10, 2017, the Carolina Jazz Society will begin its 59th concert season of jazz and Dixieland entertainment by Dick Goodwin and a distinguished ensemble of jazz musician regulars, plus intermittent appearances of renowned guest artists from all over the globe.

Whether you already love this truly American art form or you just love good music, you will be impressed by the improvisational skills of Dr. Goodwin and every member of the band and their collective talent.

I've been a fan (and a member) of the Jazz Society for 50-plus years, and I'm looking forward to renewing my membership as we begin our new season. And the price is right!!! For a nominal yearly membership fee, plus \$5.00 per event, members are provided a once-monthly two-and-a-half hour concert (from September through May) that is unsurpassed in quality and appeal. For folks who want to just try us out without membership, it's just \$10.00 per concert, but you'll probably want to join after the first five minutes. The Jazz Society meets the first Sunday of each month, except for an occasional change to the second Sunday in order to avoid a holiday.

It's a great place to enjoy the arts with friends, the food is good (pot luck snack food), and everybody there has a great time. There's even a place to dance along the edges of the room. Our meetings are held at the Lourie Center in Columbia, but don't expect an older crowd just because it functions as a Senior center. You kids under 50 will be well-represented in the audience, and you'll have a great time. There's no age limit on the enjoyment of good music, and the rooms are usually packed with people of all ages.

Everything is warm and informal and it's a great place to meet new friends and visit with old ones, while everybody is exposed to some of the best music in this country. There will be couples, whole families, and singles, which brings me to the most exciting part of my story.

There are always some real nice ladies and gents there, and some of them are not married! In fact, that's where I met my bride, two and a half years ago. We had both lost our beloved spouses (who had also loved jazz), and after many years alone, we didn't think we'd ever love again. That all changed when we attended a Jazz Society meeting in December, met in the embrace of the music, fell in love, and were married in August.

Now I'm not saying everyone will meet their forever someone just by joining the Carolina Jazz Society but, it happened for me, so what can I say? It's an enchanting place, with lots of nice people. I can't wait to see what new faces will be joining us this year, and what new couples might happen.

Please join us at 2:30 PM on Sunday, September 10, for a wonderful concert, and bring your friends and family Or come alone, like I did. You'll never regret it.

(Bob Hickman is a jazz musician, and former News Director and News Anchor at WIS-TV.)

Thanks Bob! You can't beat the combination of great musicians, great music and great fans!

Red Smith, Editor