

THE CAT'S MEOW



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Mr. Music Man, Dick Goodwin, Leads This Month

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

2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, December, 3, 2017

Dick pulled his own name out of the hat this month. That means he will be the leader, call the tunes, set the tempo and then let each of our musicians add their own musical ideas. If you listen closely, you can hear one of the musicians come up with a variation on the theme. Then another musician picks up on that idea for their solo (or joins in to play counterpoint) – all the while keeping the rhythm going and bringing a smile to everyone in the audience. But before our musicians get lost in intellectual space, they join back together on the main theme. The result is a joyous music that makes you feel good.

That reminds me of a concert at the North Carolina Jazz Festival in Wilmington NC (long time members may remember this quote but I still think it captures the response of most jazz lovers so well that I will repeat it). And if your memory is no better than mine, you may not remember that I quoted it before – and it was a long time ago.

I was at a table that included the recently retired Chaplain from the University of Tennessee. His children, who lived in Wilmington, had given him a ticket to the festival and I wound up seated beside him. I introduced myself and we began to talk before the music began.

It quickly became obvious that he wasn't sure he ought to be at such a gathering. And it was equally obvious that he felt he had gotten himself into something he would regret.

But as he listened to the opening song, his expression began to change. His frown relaxed and a tentative smile appeared. And as the set continued, he response gradually changed into enthusiastic applause. Before long, he was saying, "This is joyous music! This is exciting music!"

And for me this really is exciting, joyous music!

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

The Carolina Jazz Society

It boggles my mind that our musicians are so good in so many genera. To illustrate, Dick wrote a piece that was recorded by the Warsaw Philharmonic featuring Richard Stoltzman on Clarinet. Stoltzman is a big name in classical music. But in my opinion, we have a clarinetist who can do classical as well as Stoltzman and is also very good at jazz. And in my opinion, Doug has a better tone than Stoltzman.

And if you remember, Dick wrote a special piece for the classical orchestra in his hometown, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

But I digress – getting back to the reason for calling Dick “Music Man; That’s because He is so good in such diverse fields; Trad Jazz for us, Big Band for Big Band Lovers, and a Modern Jazz Quintet along with his various classical endeavors.

But here’s a side of Dick’s music that may surprise you in Dick’s own words):

“Over the years, I’ve coordinated a chamber music series for the SC Philharmonic at different locations in the VA Hospital and at Palmetto Richland and arranged pieces in lots of different styles ... jazz, classical, marches, movie themes, patriotic and seasonal pieces, etc. It might be a brass quintet, a mixed string and woodwind group, or a variety pack with piano, percussion, and various wind and string instruments. For example, at Children's Hospital we are likely to have flute, violin, clarinet, and cello. We play appropriate songs, demonstrate the instruments, and will invite children to "conduct" the ensemble. At the VA all of the groups will play the five service songs, as well as other pieces that people there will recognize.

Then on Thursday, December 14th, Doug and I will join guitarist Jerry Sims and vocalist Kristi Hood for a night of Jazz & Standards at Villa Tronco Italian Restaurant. (Reservations are probably a good idea ... 803-256-7677)

Other than that we will all be playing for social events here and in Georgia, as well as various area church "gigs".

He really does “cover the waterfront”.

By the way, Dick had his Big Band in the Fine Arts Center in Camden last month and they played to a very enthusiastic audience. It was obvious that for the lady sitting in front of me, “this was her kind of music”. She bounced with every song, applauded enthusiastically at every chance and left the hall with a big smile on her face.

Oh and one more thing; Dick’s Wife, Winifred, joined the band for an outstanding version of Gershwin’s “I’ve Got Rhythm”. Maybe she will join us to sit in for a song or two.

Red Smith, Editor