

THE CAT'S MEOW



PO BOX 50806

Columbia, South Carolina 29250

803-432-1504

Great News! Jim Ruth Returns!

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

2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, April 8, 2018

Note: Because of Easter, this will be on the second Sunday in April.

Jim is a superb clarinetist and I really enjoy the interplay between he and Doug. A man of many talents, Jim also plays all the reed instruments (as well as trombone, drums, bass and banjo).

After moving to Charlotte, Jim joined the Southern Fried Jazz Band. At one of their gigs, he gave Don (the leader) a Dixieland CD and asked him to "check it out". Don said, "that's a good band. Who else is in the band". Jim replied, "No one, that was all me".

When not working with the Southern Fried, Jim performs with name acts and bands around the Southeast. And people in the Charlotte area can hire the "Jim ruth dixielanders" (that's not my typo; it's the way the name is displayed on their logo).

Jim began his professional career as a member of both the Canadian Forces Big Band and their Dixieland Band. He also played with many of the Dixieland bands on the river boats in Minneapolis area. Like our regular band members, Jim is a virtuoso in many of the musical genre. For example, he has played with symphonies in both Canada and Minnesota. Furthermore, Jim is a widely respected musician and educator.

More on the Wilmington, NC Jazz Festival

Scott Robinson was one of the "new" performers this year (ie new to the Wilmington Festival). He looks like an aging hippie but he has solid credentials. He won the Louis Armstrong award in high school, then studied at Berklee College of Music, becoming the **youngest faculty member (at age 22)**. Scott plays a variety of instruments, but in his case (as far as I know), they are all reed instruments.

One of the instruments he played was an Hungarian Tarogata (with an accent sign over the first a). The instrument looks and sounds a bit like a soprano sax. I gather it is used extensively by folk musicians in Hungary and surrounding countries. It has a nice sound. And in his hands it is a fine jazz instrument.

In addition, Scott played a variety of other reeds. It seemed to me that the only one he missed was the bass sax (pity because I like a good bass sax. If I remember correctly, some years ago, one of our club members used to bring his bass sax and sit in with the house band).

Chuck Redd has been a regular at the festival for many years, playing both drums and vibes (but not at the same time). He is good at both but I enjoy his vibes just a bit more.

Nicki Parott, the fine Australian bass player and singer, played on Thursday night but had a gig on a cruise ship for the next few weeks. That meant she was replaced for the rest of the concert by Debbie Kennedy, another Aussie and also a fine bass player and singer.

I had a chance to talk with Debbie for a bit. I mentioned that my office mate and I flipped a coin to decide who would go to Australia to help with problems at a joint venture that had just been formed between an Australian company and DuPont (turns out their biggest problem was dye control and my office mate was the expert on dye). We didn't know that dye procedures were the problem until he got there. Turns out it was lucky that he went instead of me (my forte was physical testing). To quote the Pittsburg Pirates baseball announcer once again, **"It's a whole lot better to be lucky than good"**. **DuPont was lucky on the coin toss.**