

# THE CAT'S MEOW



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## Help Celebrate Our Birthday!

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

**2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, November 4, 2018**

We're going to have a party, a birthday party in this case. And you'll want to be here. Of course every one of our concerts is a party of sorts. But this will be a real birthday party with cake and ice-cream to celebrate the Jazz Club's 60th birthday.

But there's more big news. The new CD will be on sale. I think this CD is something you will cherish. I'll be getting five; one for myself, one for each of our two sons, one for a cousin who had a good trad band in California for many years, plus one just for contingencies. I suspect you'll want one for yourself and you might want to get a few to give to relatives. I think it will bring fond memories to them in years to come.

Here's the playlist:

1. I'VE FOUND A NEW BABY – Palmer/S. Williams
2. BASIN STREET – S. Williams
3. HINDUSTAN – Wallace/Weeks
4. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO MISS NEW ORLEANS – DeLange/Alter
5. MOONLIGHT ON THE GANGES -- Wallace/ Meyers
6. LADY BE GOOD – G. & I. Gershwin
7. BLUE SKIES – Irving Berlin
8. THE SHEIK – Smith/Wheeler/Snyder
9. WAY DOWN YONDER IN NEW ORLEANS – Layton/Creamer
10. IF I HAD YOU – Campbell/Connelly/Shapiro
11. I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING BUT LOVE -- Fields/McHugh
12. SKYLARK – Mercer/Carmichael
13. DOCTOR JAZZ – “King” Oliver
14. JUST A CLOSER WALK – trad.
15. WHEN THE SAINTS – trad.

I think you'll find old favorites (and maybe a new one on this CD).

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

## Lullaby of the Leaves

Every time I think there's no way that Doug can get any better, he ups the ante a smidgen. In particular, Doug & the guys have played a very pretty song entitled "Lullaby of the Leaves" several times now.

It is such a pretty tune (especially Doug's rendition) that I am shocked that I had never heard it before. I looked it up on the internet and found vocal versions by Ella Fitzgerald & by Keely Smith (who sang with and was married to Louie Prima). I also found an instrumental version by Benny Goodman as well as one by one by Gerry Mulligan and Bob Brookmeyer. All this makes it really seem strange that I don't remember ever hearing the song before.

Now, having checked out several versions (including the one by Benny Goodman), **I think Doug and our guys did it best.**

A this leads me to muse philosophically. I believe traditional jazz truly represents the American Spirit and the American Experience.

Each instrument has its own unique voice and each musician is free to chime in whenever he or she has a good idea, even if it is just a minor comment. And there is no dictator (the conductor) telling everybody what to do and when to do it. But the musicians must work together as a team if they are to be successful. What's more, if something doesn't work as expected, nobody gets fired. They just drop that failed experiment and move on (that also describes the qualities of the best American companies).

This music also reflects the diversity that is a major factor in this great experiment called the USA. Jazz draws on diverse peoples; some from rural areas, some from big cities and some from countries all over the world. It includes both highly trained musicians and self-taught musicians. I believe it embodies the ideals our country was built on and that's why our music and our ideals have spread around the world.

But wait there's more (as Ron Popeil used to say). Jazz forms a connection between people who might have little in common otherwise. I suppose that claim might be made for any of the arts, but jazz is the one that brings me great joy. I hope it does the same for you!

Red Smith, Editor