

THE CAT'S MEOW



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The Three Clarinetists

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

2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, Dec 2, 2018

No, it isn't the Three Musketeers or the Three Caballeros (and thankfully, not The Three Stooges). But we will have three outstanding clarinetists on the band stand this month. Our good friend Jim Ruth will come down from the upstate, Pete Neighbour, now an American Citizen, will take time out from playing on Cruise ships to join our guys. And of course, Doug Graham will be on the bandstand too.

But maybe it would be more accurate to say the three reed players because there is a good chance to hear one or more of the musicians playing a sax, most likely a soprano. But whatever they play, you will be hearing three outstanding reed players. You don't want to miss this concert!

Do you have a favorite out of the sax family? My favorite is the soprano, but that opinion is undoubtedly influenced by the musicians who played the instrument. In particular, I've always been impressed by Sydney Bechet (I like his clarinet also). Then there were the "Soprano Summit" series with Bob Wilber and Kenny Davern. Davern and Wilber don't play Dixieland but I've always enjoyed their recordings. However, at some point Davern gave up the soprano saying it was beginning to affect his embouchure (if that's the correct word) to concentrate on the clarinet. My next favorite is the bass sax, with the baritone sax a close third. The sax that I enjoy least is the tenor, probably the most popular sax during the Big Band Era.

I knew that the sax was invented by "Adolph Sax" in 1800's, long after most other band instruments had been developed and their design stabilized. But when I looked up "Sax" on the internet I was in for a big surprise. There were a whole series of instruments! **I think I counted up 11 different types of saxes.**

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

The Three Clarinetists, continued

But whichever instrument they choose, you'll hear three outstanding musicians on reeds (of whichever type) along with all the other regulars on the bandstand.

A Very Nice Note From Bob Hickman

I received the following email from Bob Hickman, the newest board member (and he agreed to let me quote it in the Meow):

"I've loved the Carolina Jazz Society since the 1960's. When I arrived in South Carolina from Missouri to become News Director and anchorman for WIS-TV, I needed to get acquainted with every facet of life in this state as quickly as possible - including its principal attractions, its government, history, politics, culture, and favorite foods - everything that had been mixed together to make it the unique place that it is.

I was especially interested in the music. While journalism was my vocation, my avocation was, and still is, music, having played in various bands since I was 16 years old. I visited the Carolina Jazz Society early on, and was delighted to learn that there was no better Dixieland music ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. Joe King, Tommy Wix and other notables were, to me, the biggest part of the music scene in SC, and the first Sunday of the month quickly became the most anticipated part of my calendar.

Kay, my wife, joined the Jazz Society only about 10 years ago, but has been mesmerized by its music ever since. And together, we have a very special reason for loving THIS music, because when we met at a concert 3 years ago, it was love at first sight (and sound) and we were married 5 months later!

Once we learned that any Member could become a Patron, we welcomed the opportunity. Where else can you get: a chance to help support a musical genre that can't ever be replaced; at least 9 wonderful concerts a year by the best musicians around, led by the brilliant Dr. Dick Goodwin; a great CD of their unforgettable music absolutely free; good food; free passes for friends or family; and good fellowship, all at a bargain price?

Kay and I have been delighted by our investment and we highly recommend that everyone take advantage of this very affordable option."

Red Smith, Editor

PS: Perks for becoming a Patron include (bringing up to four guests to concerts & walking in without having to stop to pay at the door) and as Bob mentioned the exclusive CJS Band CD studio recording.