

THE CAT'S MEOW



PO BOX 50806 Columbia, South Carolina 29250 803-432-1504

Box Score: Covid Virus 1, Jazz Society 0

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

All Concerts Cancelled Until Jan 1

I got the following email from Stephanie Benjamin, Director of Programs and Communications at the Lourie Center:

“The Lourie Center will not be accepting outside groups in the LC building through the rest of the year. I ask you to please plan for January 2021 and will update you in a few months on the health and safety guidelines in place at the end of the year.”

This is a disappointing missive but understandable in these uncertain times! Among other issues, the Center has to worry about lawsuits in our current litigationistic society. **Whenever we resume our concerts your memberships will be extended to include the unused portion of the 9 concerts of your membership.**

Research

Other music venues are facing the same situation. This has prompted research into the safety concerns of not only social distancing and mask, but of the instruments and their ability to transmit the musician’s exhale into the audience.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science publication “Science” details the study done by researchers at the University of Colorado. Solo musicians in a clean room were monitored while using the trumpet, clarinet, flute, French horn and voice. Results show that aerosols were produced in the range that could indeed carry the Covid-19 virus. Higher concentrations of the aerosols were found in instruments that provide a less restrictive path to the instrument opening. That is to say a clarinet would be less restrictive than a French horn thus allowing more aerosols to escape. The “Science” magazine article can be found on the web at <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/07/it-safe-strike-band-time-coronavirus>

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

Concerts are \$10 for non-members, \$5 for members, free for Patrons and young people under 18.

Will Our War With This New Virus Result In Any Good Songs?

At the beginning of WWI, George M Cohan said “**No good songs ever came out of a war**”. Then he sat down and wrote “**Over There**”. And another of his songs “**A Grand Old Flag**” had a surge in popularity (Cohan wrote a lot of songs over his lifetime which spanned from 1878 til 1942).

From WWII, I remember “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy”, “Praise the Lord & Pass the Ammunition”, and “There Will Be BlueBirds Over the White Cliffs of Dover” (popularized by the British singer, Vera Lynn – but there's a problem, Blue Birds are not indigenous to Great Britain).

Then the influx of American Servicemen brought traditional jazz to a whole new audience (and in my opinion, after WWII the best traditional jazz was to be found in Europe – other than our guys of course).

I really liked the “Dutch Swing College” led by Peter Shilperoot (Satchmo said it was the best Trad Jazz Band in Europe). And that strange name for the band came about because the Nazi's banned Jazz (if you were caught playing or listening to Jazz, you could easily end up in a “Concentration Camp”) But Peter and friends wanted to make sure there was a place to play even if it had to be clandestine hence the “Dutch Swing College”.

And there were some really good Jazz Bands in Great Britain (Kenny Ball, Chris Barber, Ken Colyer and John Dankworth among others). And long time members may remember that Dankworth sat in with our guys regularly (he was an official with a British Bank with a branch in Charlotte). After returning to Great Britain, he and his wife, Cleo Laine, were engaged in a wide variety of musical productions (with Jazz featured prominently).

And this too shall pass but until it does, please stay safe everyone!

Red Smith, editor