

# THE CAT'S MEOW



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## We're Back!

### But not at the Lourie Center

Heyward Street United Methodist Church  
2501 Heyward Street, Columbia, SC

Thanks to a contingent of board members from Columbia, we have a new place for our concerts, namely the United Methodist Church at 2501 Heyward St.

Over the Jazz Club's long history, we've met at many different locations but I think we held more concerts at the Lourie Center than anywhere else. But when it finally became obvious that the Lourie Center could no longer host our concerts (or any weekend activities), a Columbia contingent jumped into action. **Many thanks to the Board for finding a new venue.** And thanks also to Tammy Blom, pastor of the Heyward Street United Methodist Church. She has been very welcoming.

In some ways, this move will take us back to the earliest days of jazz **We will not be using a sound system!** Therefore, it behoves you to come early to get a good seat. But the word I hear is that the acoustics in the Church Hall are very good.

### What About Masks?

Well thankfully this is not our decision. The church requirement is that all patrons must wear masks. While performing, the band members will have a separation of 10 feet from the audience.

### Jim Hall Leads

Jim Hall will do more than provide the rhythm this month. He will call the tunes and be in charge – well as much as anyone can be in charge. The amazing thing is that these guys work so well together. It takes very little other than making sure everyone is playing the same song in the same key to get great music out of the group.

**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.

### **The Covid Virus Still Tends to Wend It's Wicked Ways!**

That's why it pays to follow the guidelines!

What Changes Can You Expect? In my career as a Physicist, I learned that when I was adventuring into something new, it paid to anticipate as many things as I could think of but to expect surprises, mostly small surprises but surprises non-the-less. If you come with that attitude, I think we will all have a good time. Besides it will take us all out of the small ruts that habits tend to lead us into.

I gather that parking (on the street) should be no problem. However, we will not have the goodie table (but the virus would have ruled that out where-ever we met).

All of these changes reminds me of the Boswell Sisters. They had a hit with their version of "**There Will Be Some Changes Made**". And there will be lots of changes in the next few concerts.

But my best advice is to come, enjoy the great music, expect to meet new friends and enjoy the new surroundings.

We will continue our long history of presenting live traditional jazz to a very receptive audience. Remember, we are one of the oldest jazz societies in the world.

I think the key has been in getting the best musicians in the area who enjoy this musical legacy and letting them play to a grateful audience!

### **Larry Conger**

I expect that most of you know that Larry passed away on July 1 at the age of 94. Larry played a powerful cornet that never needed a mike to fill the entire hall with sound.

Larry got his big start playing with Turk Murphy at Earthquake McGoon's in San Francisco. Turk had 200 songs in his repertoire and added 20 new ones each year while dropping 20 old ones. Early one season, Turk called one of the new songs and Larry said, "Wait a minute while I get the music". Turk replied, we've played this song 20 times. You should know it by now and started the downbeat. Larry was on his own! But Larry did a fine job and got a nod from Turk!

Larry had a big impact on our house band when he formed the "Two Rivers Jazz Band". But it worked both ways. He got some of the best jazz musicians in the area and they broadened their repertoire.

**But Larry had unexpected talents. He also played violin with the Greenville Symphony. Larry was a fine musician and a true gentleman.**

**Red Smith, emeritus editor**