

THE CAT'S MEOW



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Aletha Jacobs To Lead this Month

Heyward Street United Methodist Church

2501 Heyward Street, Columbia, SC

2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, October 3, 2021

Last month's concert was entirely acoustic and the band sounded great. This month will be even better with some minor tweaks and a quality piano, complements of Red Smith.

Covid precautions

The church requires that all patrons wear mask. No food or drink is allowed at this time. The venue was perfect for arranging seating to your preference as long as it is at least 10 feet away from the band.

A note from Aletha for our newsletter

I'm very happy to be playing a real piano this season. It is so great to have a more authentic sound for the oldest jazz society east of the Mississippi.

I'm happy to still be teaching at both USC and Columbia College. All of last year I taught online, but this year I am teaching in person with everyone wearing masks. You can still check out Carolina Alive's (vocal jazz choir at USC) performance on the U of SC's youtube channel. We recorded everything online, using



Soundtrap, and did not see each other in person for the whole year.

It was challenging last year, but this year I'm very happy to be back in the classroom. Gigs have been slowly returning, however, I had 3 cancellations this month due to covid. I am still nervous about being around crowds, but I will if people are wearing masks.

About mentors, there are so many, but every month I get to work with Dick, Doug, and Jim who have always been so wonderful to work, learn, and grow with throughout the years. Also, Bruce has so many humorous insights into jazz history, and Dustin is so solid and dependable on the bass. It is such a pleasure to work with all of them each month. When you truly respect and enjoy the people you play gigs with, that in itself is a mentorship:-)

I did attend the New York Voices Vocal Jazz camp this past summer as well as last year where we had classes and recorded everything online. I have learned so much from them, as well as Greg Jasperse from University of Western Michigan, and Rosana Eckert from University of North Texas. I also collaborated for the first time on some original music with Rosana and two others this past summer. I usually write everything solo, but it was a very positive experience, and the music will be available for a listen online soon.

Aletha