

# THE CAT'S MEOW



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**Heyward Street United Methodist Church  
2501 Heyward Street, Columbia, SC  
2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, January 9, 2022**

Doug Graham will lead the Troops to start out the New Year. Doug told me that he plans to call some new tunes along with a bunch “oldies”.

And I made a specific request for “Lullaby of the Leaves” because I think it is a gorgeous song (Doug told me he learned it from Jim Mings).

I asked if he had ever considered a different career? Doug said that his father’s strong advice was to become an orthodontist. His father said, “They get paid very well and don’t get emergency calls in the middle of the night”. Fortunately, for us., Doug did not follow that advice,

I reminded Doug that he had met Pete Fountain as a teen. Doug said that came about because Pete’s son was a classmate. When Doug met Pete, Doug asked Pete what sort of reed he used and Pete said “A Pete Fountain Reed”. Then, Doug asked about his mouthpiece and the reply was “A Pete Fountain Mouthpiece”. I think that was the same reply for every other technical question Doug asked.

I reminded Doug that Tommy Wix was our clarinetist when Doug joined the band. I said, I noticed that you listened to Tommy’s solo and then came up with an interesting version of your own. Doug corrected me. He said, I watched his fingering and that told me about the cord structure and I could improvise on that.

However it happened, I think their playing complemented each other and the band was really lucky to have that duo on the stand along with the rest of the guys.

Together, Tommy Wix and Doug Graham have been a major factor in the Jazz Society’s long history (the Club has been holding live concerts since 1058). Of course there has been a long list of other musicians who’ve help make this possible. And I am grateful to each and everyone of them along with their disparate personalities!

Red Smith