

# THE CAT'S MEOW



PO BOX 50806

Columbia, South Carolina 29250

803-432-1504

**Heyward Street United Methodist Church**  
**2501 Heyward Street, Columbia, SC**  
**2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, February 6, 2022**

## **Jim Hall To The Rescue**

I say "to The Rescue" because Dustin Retzlaff was scheduled to lead this month. But a family emergency required him to be out of town and Dick called on Jim to take over. (Dustin will lead in March).

And who better to fill the breach than the "Distinguished Professor of Music" of the University of South Carolina, Jim Hall"! Although, to be precise, Jim is now the "Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Music".

Rhythm (again in my opinion) is the heart and soul of Jazz. Rock & Rollers can also make that claim but, in my opinion, Jazz does it with more élan). But maybe that's just a quibble.

Strangely, rhythm seems to me to be relatively unimportant to most (but not all) classical pieces. That's why a conductor is essential for classical orchestras. That and to read the score so that he (or she) can point to a musician to tell that person when to begin playing on the long score they have been trying to follow. Well, maybe that's a bit of exaggeration but again, in my opinion, "not all that much". But maybe some of our musicians (who are also excellent classical musicians) would like to offer a rebuttal).

I asked Jim to list some of the well known musicians he has played with or shows he has worked on over his career. And the list is impressive! It includes the Bob Hope Show, Red Skelton, Rich Little, Barbara Little, and the Ice Capades,

I also asked Jim if there were any people that he especially liked playing with or working on their shows. He said that Billy Eckstine would be at the top of the list. And to my surprise when I looked up Eckstine on the internet, I discovered that Eckstine also played valve trombone, trumpet & guitar.

Jim said that some of the nicest musicians he's worked with included Marion McPartland, Clark Terry and David "Fathead" Newman. I also asked if there were any that he would not play with again (some musicians have big egos they tell me). His reply "In all my years of playing there was never a musician or group that I disliked so much that I would refuse to work with then again.

Jim added, that he always stressed to his students that it is important to play as many different styles of music that they could get hired to do. He added that no matter what the gig was, "I was available". And he never asked how much the gig would pay. Jim said there were times that policy didn't always work out too well but it remained his personal policy.

Red Smith, Editor Emeritus

**PS: Our club has been lucky to have excellent musicians who like the musicians they play with and who genuinely enjoy playing this kind of music**

### **SC Philharmonic Concert Featuring World Premiere Work by Dick Goodwin**

**American Memories** concert features works by American composers George Gershwin, Florence Price, William Grant Still and Dick Goodwin. In person and livestreamed tickets for this February 5 concert can be purchased at [www.scphilharmonic.com](http://www.scphilharmonic.com)

A teaser can be seen on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/X5Xs3CHLtYw>