

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, April 3, 2022

Dick Goodwin Will Lead the Group This Month

A note from Red Smith, President Emeritus Extraordinaire

I was surprised the first time I was elected president of the Carolina Jazz Society and shocked the second time. Then astounded to be re-elected many times since.

I pondered this mystery and concluded that I got the job because it is the least important job in the Society. Yes, I need to write the newsletter each month. But I contacted the musician scheduled to lead the group at the next concert (band members take turns leading each month). I would ask about their career, favorite musicians, unexpected twists and turns in their profession etc. This allowed our members to know a bit more about each musician.

Other officers and volunteers took care of the remaining tasks. More importantly, a very capable person always stepped up when there was a need. And they took on the task without moaning about "all the work" or "nobody appreciates the work I do".

Another mystery: "How have we've gotten such good musicians for the small salary we offer?" Our band members are very versatile. They regularly perform many types of music including impressive classical works and Big Band favorites. I think one of the reasons is that our musicians enjoy the freedom and camaraderie this type of music offers. Not to mention the fact that the audience clearly enjoys the music.

I will close by quoting a Chaplain from the University of Tennessee. His sons had given him a ticket to a Jazz Festival in Wilmington North Carolina that I've attended for many years. The audience sits at big round tables with seats assigned that are assigned in advance.

The Chaplain had never been to a jazz concert and was not at all sure he should be there. But that changed after the first few bars. His expression began to change. He began smiling and tapping his foot. By the end of the second song, he said, "This is marvelous music. I'm going to write a scholarly article about jazz for an Ecclesiastical Journal as soon as I get home."

And he was right. Trad Jazz is a happy music that lifts the soul while acknowledging that sad things are also part of life.

Thanks for a "**Job well done, Red**" - Jerry

A note from David Roof, President Elect

Jerry asked me for my musical bio, a request that quickly grew to unexpected proportions.

I had piano lessons from elementary school onward but they didn't particularly take. I started trumpet in the school band, but couldn't play high notes so I landed on euphonium, which I kept up as a sideline through college, marching with the Virginia Tech Highty Tights.

Arriving back in Columbia in 1994 after the Air Force sent me around the world as a Services officer, I played in the Columbia Community Band and the Wild Irish Band for St Pat's in Five points, weddings with the Capital Brass Quintet, was in at the start of the Lake Murray Symphony, and played many a polka with Die Lustigen Muzikanten. My connection to the Columbia jazz scene is from the support side around 1995, tending bar on Gervais Street while Skip Pearson and Dwight Spencer played; I recall Dr Jacobs there on occasion. One can't go far in the Columbia music scene without running into Dr Goodwin, which became a recurring theme. I ran sound at the Unitarian Coffeehouse when Dr Goodwin brought his big band there.

I also sing in the Columbia Choral Society, which commissioned Dr Goodwin to write a suite about the SC State Flower, Yellow Jessamine. Along the way I picked up the tuba, then several tubas and ended up playing Piccolo Spoleto with the Seed and Feed Marching Abominable from Atlanta, which led to a memorable week at the HONK! NYC Festival in 2019, which seems a long time ago given subsequent events!. With my background as sound tech and stagehand, it was only natural that I ended up helping out with setup at the Jazz Society shows, and as usual the reward for a job well done is more work: so I am now happy to be President!

David, we look forward to your leadership. **Welcome aboard!** - Jerry

Dick leads this month with a tribute to Spring

To quote Cole Porter, "IT'S SPRING AGAIN AND BIRDS ON THE WING AGAIN", and Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart have confirmed that "SPRING IS HERE". So it is a time for love – and – of course for MUSIC!

My assignment is to lead the troops this Sunday for our April 3rd Carolina Jazz Society gathering at Heyward Street United Methodist. It is a time for songs about spring and about April and I have done my research. There are number of selections that deserve to be heard. (For the most part, I am avoiding the ones that shouldn't be heard.) Aletha always graces us with a fine vocal number or three and I am hoping that she does "JOY SPRING", a true jazz classic. I, on the other hand, am preparing a song about April in Alaska. Yes, I know it is an un-classic and there is no ground swell for me to perform it, but I'm doing to it anyway.

In any event, I hope that you can join us Sunday for a round of fun tunes -- played by our house band in the joyful jazz tradition. - Dick Goodwin