

# THE CAT'S MEOW



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## Ron & Ron Lead March 5

Heyward Street United Methodist Church

2501 Heyward Street

2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, March 5, 2023

Come over to the Heyward St UMC for a toe-tapping casual fun time with the Carolina Jazz band - 2:30 - 5 pm.

At the March concert, Ron Hockett and Ron Davis will lead the group - Hockett on clarinet and saxophone and Ron Davis on tuba and banjo.

Our season continues to lead the local scene with great performances by the regional superstars of Dixieland Jazz.

## Ron Davis

I spoke with Ron Davis about his journey. Below are a few notes.

Ron is from Los Angeles. He came from a musical family. His parents put his older siblings through school and were strapped for another child's tuition so Ron utilized his talents to pay his own way by performing with his banjo at the local Shakey's Pizza. He did this for 12 years. He was also the original banjo player at Walt Disney World's Pioneer Hall Hoop-Dee-Doo Musical Review. This was nearly 50 years ago.

He was teaching the University of Wisconsin when he heard about a teaching position at the University of South Carolina. He applied and landed the position.



I asked how he became interested in jazz. “If you play tuba and banjo you gotta love jazz”. I asked about other hobbies and interest. “Music is not something you do, it’s something you are”

## Ron Hockett

Growing up in Evanston, Illinois, Ron Hockett began playing professionally with George Brunies, Bobby Gordon and the Salty Dogs while still in high school. A member of the popular youth group, The Windjammers, Hockett took part in rehearsals that turned into jam sessions with visiting greats Bobby Hackett, Bud Freeman and Jimmy McPartland.

While a student at Princeton, Ron toured the Orient with the Dukes of Dixieland. From 1970 to 1999, he was the lead saxophonist and clarinet soloist in the “President’s Own” U.S. Marine Band in Washington, D.C., performing throughout the U.S. and Europe, and making regular appearances at the White House.

After retiring from the Marine Band, Ron began a 12-year run as the Clarinetist with the Jim Cullum Jazz Band in San Antonio, (from 1999 to 2011) and appeared on hundreds of public radio programs with Cullum in the series “Riverwalk: Live From the Landing” which can still be heard on the internet at <https://riverwalkjazz.stanford.edu/>

He now lives in Charlotte and is a frequent guest at the Carolina Jazz Society sessions.

Jerry Bright

