

# THE CAT'S MEOW



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## Aletha Jacobs To Be In Charge

Lourie Center at Maxcy Gregg Park (just off Pickens near Blossom)

2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, February 4, 2018

**Just in time to get in the mood for Valentine's day, our pianist and songstress, Aletha Jacobs, will call the tunes.**

Aletha is on the faculty at Columbia College and here is what the College has to say:

Aletha Jacobs teaches Piano, jazz Combos, Ensemble, Applied Jazz, and Music Theory. Aletha Jacobs is a 1997 University of South Carolina graduate with an M.M. in Jazz Studies. She began teaching at Columbia College ('78 BA Music Education/ Choral/ Piano) in 1998.

As a professional musician for 40 years (editor's note – if that number is correct, she must have turned professional at age 3), Aletha has performed in every kind of venue, from playing & singing in bands, accompanying various musicians and in musicals, to performing with orchestras. She has also toured the Mediterranean and Central America, performing for our troops.

Famous people with whom she has shared the stage include John Pizzarelli, The Shirelles, The Drifters, and Freddy Cole. Aletha Jacobs is also the director of Carolina Alive at USC.

Recently, Aletha has written an etude book for intermediate piano with an emphasis on beginning improvisation, entitled "Rockin' Around the Keys," and she has been a guest artist at CMTA's Jazz and Improv festival for the past several years.

THE CAROLINA JAZZ SOCIETY was founded in 1958 to enjoy Dixieland Jazz, one of America's original art forms

### **Aletha Jacobs (continued)**

**Aletha has worked with USC's Carolina Alive, The Sandlapper Singers. And North Texas State's summer camps have performed her jazz choral arrangements with new charts and performances in the works. Recent work has include an intensive week of jazz vocal study with the New York Voices at Bowling Green State University.**

**As a member of JEN and MTNA (Music Teacher's National Association), she is a dedicated teacher who enjoys bringing out the artist in every student (Note: I was perplexed by the abbreviation "JEN" but the internet says that JEN is Jen's Music School in Australia). If that is correct, Aletha's teaching has a long reach.**

**I, for one, am very glad that Aletha is part of the Carolina Jazz Society House Band. She brings enthusiasm along with an impeccable technique. That makes listening to her a delight. Not only that, but she is a good singer to boot. And people who know me, know that very few singers make my list. Peggy Lee is at the top, followed by Ella Fitzgerald, Bessie Smith and perhaps, Sister Rosetta Tharpe. Tharpe is not well known today and I haven't heard her since I was a teen-ager. But you can find some songs on "You Tube", recorded late in her career. But to be honest, I always listened mostly to hear her piano player because she always had a really good pianist in the band. Of course Aletha is both a good pianist and a good singer.**

**Changing the subject, I keep being amazed at Dick Goodwin's arranging skills. Apparently no one in the band wanted to whistle Bob Haggart's part in "Big Noise from Winnetka". No problem, Dick and Doug did a marvelous job of recreating the sound with their instruments.**

**Changing subjects again, Jerry Bright and I are off to the NC Jazz Festival in Wilmington, NC on Friday. I like the venue because the acoustics are good and there is no smoking. Plus there are ~ 18 really good jazz musicians playing to an audience there to hear the music. One of the musicians is Ed Polcer and long time members will remember that he has been our guest several times in the past. A new musician, Cynthia Sayer sounds like she will be fun. Plus there will be 16 more really good musicians.**

Red Smith, Editor