

# THE CAT'S MEOW



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## Aletha Jacobs To Open The New Season

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

2:30-5:00 pm Sunday, September 9, 2018

And who better to open our 60th season. **Yes, you read right. This will be our club's 60th year of presenting live jazz in Columbia** The club began as the "Columbia Jazz Society" but changed it's name to reflect our wide demographics. Members came from all over SC and adjoining areas of Georgia and North Carolina along with a few from Florida and Virginia. That was, in part, because there was a period in the '60's when it was difficult to find traditional jazz. That's why we drew from such a wide area.



Well, a few came because they had friends or relatives in the area. But they wouldn't have come without a series of fine musicians on the bandstand. We don't have space to list all of them but Tommy Wix was a mainstay on clarinet for many years and Joe King was the long time band manager and trombonist.

Aletha tells me she had a very busy summer. In particular, she spent a week in Ithaca, New York, home of both Cornell University and Ithaca College (remember, Larry Conger is a graduate of Ithaca College).

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

At Ithaca, Aletha studied, one on one, with Kim Nazarian (a name I'm not familiar with but keep in mind that very few vocalists meet my personal approval – but Peggy Lee and Aletha are at the top.

Another little known singer, Sister Rosetta Tharp, is also high on my list, not only for her singing but she also for her fine guitar work. Plus, she always had a good piano player and gave him ample playing time.

While at Ithaca, Aletha said she really enjoyed classes with vocalists from NYU and with Rosana Eckert from the University of North Texas State (Dick, Doug and Jim also have academic ties with Texas). Aletha also worked with Greg Jasperse (yes, another name new to me). He teaches a highly regarded group at Western Michigan.

### **Coming Attractions**

Dick has been busy lining up exciting guests in coming months. Stay tuned! But I think you will be very pleased by next month's concert.

Finishing touches are being made on the Carolina Jazz Society's house band CD. It is packed with traditional jazz favorites recorded in a studio environment. This is a first for our club and you are going to want it. It should be ready for sale by early November. This is an ideal Christmas present for music loving friends and family.

### **Renew**

Our season last 9 months beginning in September. Many of you renew your membership at this time. Attached is the renewal form for your convenience. As an added bonus the brand new Carolina Jazz Society CD will be included for members who renew at the Patron level when it becomes available.

Red Smith, Editor