



# IN THE MOOD

The Olney Big Band  
NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2007

Volume 2, Number 5

## Dear Members:

Welcome to the seventh edition of The Olney Big Band Newsletter. Our Sunday Brunch in November will be held on the 11th, Veteran's Day. We extend a heartfelt hats-off and respectful thank you to all of our veterans. Your sacrifices, and those of your buddies who are still "over there" are appreciated beyond words. Where would we be without your sacrifices?



Don't miss the Oct. 21st German Radio 8, Jazzhouse with Walter Henne and his broadcast highlighting our CD -- Generations. The show will be streaming online from Ansbach, Germany at 2-3pm EDST at web link -- <http://www.radio8.de/webradio/>



[www.olneyjazz.org](http://www.olneyjazz.org)

## Quarter Notes – Musings Of A Band Leader

Dr. Rip G. Rice - Music Director, Olney Big Band

### What Does "Swinging" Mean To You?

Ever since I was a tike growing up during the Big Band Era I have been using the word "swinging". It was clear to ME and the other kids who were growing up to the greatest music style ever (in my opinion) what the word means, and so it never occurred to me that others might have a slightly different meaning from mine. Until just recently.

In August, 2007, the Olney Big Band became the very first big band to be certified by the Sally Bennett Big Band Hall of Fame as Ambassadors of Big Band Music. E-mail copies of In The Mood found their way to Europe, and a German radio disc jockey asked for one of our CDs. This gentleman, Walter Henne, a big band music fan, has a radio show on Radio-8 in Ansbach, Germany called "Jazzhouse". When Herr Henne closed his e-mail, he said, simply, "Keep on swinging!"

I like that phrase. I'm a Rick Steves fan, and Rick closes each of his travel shows with "keep on traveling!" "Keep on swinging" is of this same style. Not only do I like the phrase, but it conjures up visions of an individual swinging along while going from hither to yon. Visions of happiness, devil-may-care attitude, enjoying life, and above all, enjoying the music going on in his/her head. But definitely undulating, moving shoulders, arms, head, and whatever else moves. That is my definition of swinging.

When Walter Henne received our Generations CD, he e-mailed that he liked it and was going to feature the Olney Big Band on a future Jazzhouse broadcast, and would send me a copy of that show.

Let me digress to say that Walter's Jazzhouse featuring the Olney Big Band will be broadcast Sunday, October 21, 2007 (2-3 pm EST). American computer buffs can hear the broadcast on this link : <http://www.radio8.de/webradio/>

Walter sent me a CD of the show yet to be broadcast and an English translation of his discussion, which is wonderful. But as he closed his show, speaking excellent German, of course, suddenly came "und - keep on swinging!" Strange.

So I e-mailed Walter to ask why he had not said "keep on swinging" in German. His reply: there really is no appropriate German word or expression for "swinging", except for sitting on a swing and moving back and forth, and that does not connote the enjoyment of Big Band music. So, Walter said, "my audience knows what "swinging" means - it means relaxing and enjoying the music I broadcast."

That's when I realized that "swinging" may not mean the same to others. You've heard MY definition, and that of Walter Henne. Do any of our readers have other definitions? What does "swinging" mean to you? E-mail me with your thoughts OBBRip1@aol.com . Title your response "swinging" so I'll know it isn't spam.

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## FANTastic RESPONSE

"We admire the commitment of each one of the band's musicians, many of whom work full time, but who still share their love of music through events like the one last evening and who show an appreciation of the many cultural influences in music, whether it's Latin or Jazz or Blues. Your music brings a lift to spirits, entices our feet to move, and conjures up memories--both old and more newly acquired--of rhythms that through the years have moved the hearts of millions."

- Dr. Jorge Ribas

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## BETHANY BEACH JAZZ FUNERAL

The 2007 Bethany Beach Jazz Funeral was an "End of Summer Season Celebration" held on Labor Day, Monday, September 3. All local residents and resort visitors were invited to participate in this traditional event which is free to the public. Thus, the "Friends of Summer" celebrated the Funeral's 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary.

Those who attended saw a gathering of mourners--some draped in black shrouds, some wearing dark sunglasses, some dressed in full comedic costume, some carrying flowers and reeds , while others twirled oversized umbrellas.

The activities began about 5:30 p.m. The sobbing mourners shuffled along the Boardwalk carrying a casket with a mannequin representing "Summer of 2007" to its final resting place at the Boardwalk Bandstand.

This slow procession was led by the somber strains of such songs as "Amazing Grace", played by the Dixie Cats and Jazz Funeral Irregulars, both known as New Orleans-style Dixieland Bands. When the procession reached the Bandstand, the Bands led the assembled crowd in a rendition of "God Bless America" before the presentation of a series of short speeches to celebrate the occasion. At the end of the event the bands shifted into higher gear with upbeat Dixieland tunes.

In 2005, the Funeral was dedicated to those impacted by the lingering aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, especially the residents of New Orleans, and in 2006 to the Habitat for Humanity of Sussex County.

The Olney Big Band was well represented in the jazz music. For more than a decade, Bob Redding has played his trumpet in this "fun event".

## Songwriters' Hall of Fame

Composer Jimmy Van Heusen was born Edward Chester Babcock, in Syracuse, New York on January 26, 1913. He began writing songs while still in high school, and at the age of 16 had a regular program on a small Syracuse radio station where he adopted the last name of Van Heusen (inspired by the men's collar manufacturer of the same name). After graduating from high school, he attended Cazenovia College and Syracuse University where he studied music with instructor Colburn and later with Howard Lyman.

Moving to New York City in 1933, Van Heusen took a job as a staff pianist with Remick Music Publishing. In 1938, on the heels of his first hit publication "It's the Dreamer In Me", Van Heusen was put under contract with Remick as a songwriter and began collaborating with lyricist Eddie De Lange. They produced nearly 20 hit songs, together including "All I Remember is You", "All This and Heaven Too", "Can I Help it", "Darn

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## Player Spotlight Dennis Johnson

Dennis is a native of the Washington, D.C. area. He began his musical experience with the clarinet in the fourth grade performing in the Maryland school system. He added the saxophone in Junior High School and within a week was performing in area bands on the sax playing a variety of music: swing, dance, and rock. He began the saxophone on a borrowed tenor and his father's C-Melody saxophone. He plays all the saxophones, plus clarinet, flute, piccolo and fifes. He continued to play in bands at the University of Maryland.

He served in the U. S. Army bands, performing in post bands, jazz, dance and country bands. He served in the Third Army "Show Band of the South", based in Atlanta, GA. This band traveled the south representing the U. S. Army in parades and concerts including radio and TV. Dennis performed with The Third Army Band at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the movie "Gone With the Wind" in Atlanta as well as the opening of the Atlanta Airport.

Dennis continued performing music in the D.C. area while working for the Federal Government and booked bands as well as performed at the annual Federal Government Public Service Recognition Week Celebration on the Washington Mall for several years. He has performed with several D.C. area dance and swing bands as well as various jazz combos, wedding bands, polka bands, dixieland bands, and many stage musicals.

He has worked with such large dance and swing bands as the Vic Simas Big Band, the Walter Saab Big Band, the Bayside Big Band, the Enoch Licht Band, the Doc Scantlin Imperial Palms Orchestra, the Paramount Jazz Band, the New Columbia Band, the Bill Colvard Orchestra, the Richard Bray Orchestra, the Jim Fox Orchestra, the Capitol City Big Band, the Kaleidoscope Orchestra and the Capitol Express Jazz Orchestra which he eventually led and directed for several years. Dennis led his own jazz combo and worked with the Orpheus Jazz Combo, John Link jazz combo and the Night and Day jazz combo. He played with the Reunion Rock Band and performed at the 1996 East Coast Jazz Festival in Rockville, MD. He has played clarinet in several traditional Dixieland bands, including the Rockville (MD) Dixie Rascals.

Dennis worked with such wedding bands as Night and Day, Fifth Avenue and performed with the NJ-NY based Groove Entertainment Wedding Band. He currently subs with many bands and is a member of the following big bands; Big Band Tradition, Olney Big Band, and recently joined the Difficult Run Jazz Band as lead saxophone. He is currently solo clarinet and Concert Master of the Olney Concert Band and plays soprano sax with the Potomac Saxophone Quartet.

With the Olney Big Band, Dennis holds down the Tenor I chair (tenor, clarinet, flute), but occasionally plays lead alto sax when our regular lead alto is unavailable. □



Dennis rests his chops during our September 2006 recording session.

Dennis swings it Benny Goodman style during the Freeman Outdoor Concert Series concert, August 17, 2007.



Van Heusen from page 2

That Dream”, “There’s Gotta be a Weddin”, “Deep In a Dream”, “This Is Madness to Love”, “Good For Nothin’ But Love”, “Heaven Can Wait”, “Looking For Yesterday”, “Sympathy”, “Moonland”, “Peace, Brother”, “Shake Down the Stars”, “So Help Me” and “Swingin’ a Dream”.

By 1939, Van Heusen had started working with another lyricist, Johnny Burke. Together, the two began their own publishing firm BurVan, Inc. Van Heusen would continue to be an active music publisher for the rest of his career, founding the firms Maraville Music Corp. and Famous Music.

Collaborating on the Broadway shows Nelly Bly and Carnival in Flanders, as well as over 30 films, the Van Heusen-Burke team was one of the most successful partnerships from Tin Pan Alley. Under contract with Paramount Studios, Van Heusen and Burke moved to Hollywood in 1940. Together they wrote the hit songs “Polka Dots and Moonbeams”, “Imagination”, “It’s Always You”, “Moonlight Becomes You”, “Ain’t Got a Dime to My Name”, “Constantly”, “Sunday, Monday or Always”, “Sleighride in July”, “If You Please”, “Day After Forever”, “Swinging on a Star” (1945 Academy Award for Best Song), “Personality”, “Put It There, Pal”, “Would You?”, “Aren’t You Glad You’re You?”, “As Long As I’m Dreaming”, “Smile Right Back at the Sun”, “Country Style”, “But Beautiful”, “You Don’t Have to Know the Language”, “Once and For Always”, “When is Sometime”, “Busy Doing Nothing”, “You’re In Love with Someone”, “Top o’ the Morning”, “Sunshine Cake”, “Sure Thing”, “Life is So Peculiar”, “High on the List”, “The Magic Window”, “Say One For Me”, “You Can Bounce Right Back”, “I Couldn’t Care Less”, “Got the Moon in My Pocket”, “Suddenly It’s Spring”, “It Could Happen to You”, “Like Someone in Love”, “That Little Dream Got Nowhere”, “So Would I”, “My Heart Goes Crazy”, “You May Not Love Me” and “Just My Luck”.

In 1956, Burke semi-retired from songwriting and Van Heusen started another successful partnership with legendary lyricist Sammy Cahn. The Van Heusen-Cahn catalog includes “Love and Marriage” (1955 Emmy Award for Best Song), “Impatient Years”, “All the Way” (1957 Academy Award for Best Song), “High Hopes” (1959 Academy Award for Best Song), “The Second Time Around”, “Love Is a Career”, “To Love and Be Loved”, “Call Me Irresponsible” (1964 Academy Award for Best Song), “Incurably Romantic”, “Specialization”, “Come Fly With Me”, “Come Dance With Me” and “Only the Lonely”.

Throughout his forty year career, Van Heusen received 10 Oscar Nominations for Best Song in a Motion Picture, 4 Academy Awards for Best Song in a Motion Picture, 1 Emmy Award for Best Musical Contribution and 6 Golden Laurel Nominations for Best Music in a Motion Picture.

Jimmy Van Heusen died on February 7, 1990. □



Article: Songwriters Hall of Fame Photo: [www.jimmyvanheusen.com](http://www.jimmyvanheusen.com)

## Ella Fitzgerald The First Lady of Song

Dubbed “The First Lady of Song,” Ella Fitzgerald was the most popular female jazz singer in the United States for more than half a century. In her lifetime, she won 13 Grammy awards and sold over 40 million albums.

Her voice was flexible, wide-ranging, accurate and ageless. She could sing sultry ballads, sweet jazz and imitate every instrument in an orchestra. She worked with all the jazz greats, from Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Nat King Cole, to Frank Sinatra, Dizzy, Benny, and Louis Armstrong.

Ella Jane Fitzgerald was born in Newport News, Va. on April 25, 1917. Her father, William, and mother, Temperance (Tempie), parted ways shortly after her birth. Together, Tempie and Ella went to Yonkers, N.Y, where they eventually moved in with Tempie’s long-time boyfriend Joseph Da Silva. Ella’s half-sister, Frances, was born in 1923 and soon she began referring to Joe as her stepfather.

In 1932, Tempie died from serious injuries she received in a car accident. Ella would

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suffer numerous heartaches and hardships over the next two years. At 15-years-old she found herself broke and alone during the Great Depression, but strove to endure. Ella used the memories from these times to help gather emotions for performances, and was more grateful for her success because she knew what it was like to struggle in life.

In 1934 Ella's name was pulled in a weekly drawing at the Apollo and she won the opportunity to compete in Amateur Night. Ella went to the theater that night planning to dance, but when the frenzied Edwards Sisters closed the main show, Ella changed her mind because she felt her act would not compare.

Once on stage, faced with boos from the rowdy crowd, a scared and disheveled Ella made the last minute decision to sing. She asked the band to play Hoagy Carmichael's "Judy," a favorite of her mother's. Ella quickly quieted the audience, and by the song's end they were demanding an encore.

In the band that night was saxophonist and arranger Benny Carter. Impressed with her natural talent, he began introducing Ella to people who could help launch her career.

Fueled by enthusiastic supporters, Ella began entering - and winning - every talent show she could find. In January 1935 she won the chance to perform for a week with the Tiny Bradshaw band at the Harlem Opera House. It was there that Ella first met drummer and bandleader Chick Webb. He offered Ella the opportunity to test with his band when they played a dance at Yale University.

Despite the tough crowd, Ella was a major success, and Chick hired her to travel with the band.

In mid 1936, Ella made her first recording. "Love and Kisses", with mod-

erate success. By this time she was performing with Chick's band at the prestigious Harlem's Savoy Ballroom, often referred to as "The World's Most Famous Ballroom."

In 1938, at the age of 21, Ella recorded a playful version of the nursery rhyme, "A-Tisket, A-Tasket." The album hit number 1 and sold 1 million copies. Suddenly, Ella was famous.

After the death of Chick Webb on June 16, 1939, the band was renamed "Ella Fitzgerald and Her Famous Band," and Ella took on the overwhelming task of bandleader.

Shortly afterward, Ella began singing a rendition of the song, "(If You Can't Sing It) You Have to Swing It." During this time, the era of big swing bands was shifting more toward bebop. Ella played with the new style, often using her voice to take on the role of another horn in the band. "You Have to Swing It" was one of the first times she began experimenting with scat singing. Ella once admitted "I stole everything I ever heard, but mostly I stole from the horns."

While on tour with Dizzy Gillespie's band in 1946, Ella fell in love with bassist Ray Brown. The two were married and eventually adopted a son, whom they named Ray, Jr.

Ray convinced Ella to sign with producer and man-

ager Norman Granz of the "Jazz at the Philharmonic" tour. Ella joined the tour, and worked with Louis Armstrong on several albums and began producing her infamous songbook series. From 1956-1964, she recorded covers of other musicians' albums, including those by Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, the Gershwins, Johnny Mercer, Irving Berlin, and Rodgers and Hart.

Ira Gershwin once remarked, "I never knew how good our songs were until I heard Ella Fitzgerald sing them".

Ella was inducted into the Down Beat magazine Hall of Fame, and received Kennedy Center Honors for her continuing contributions to the arts. In 1987, President Ronald Reagan awarded Ella the National Medal of Arts. It was one of her most prized moments.

On June 15, 1996, Ella Fitzgerald died in her Beverly Hills home. Hours later, signs of remembrance began to appear all over the world.

Compiled from the Official Ella Fitzgerald Website: <http://www.ellafitzgerald.com/> □



photo by Carl Van Vechten, 1940

## Key Personnel

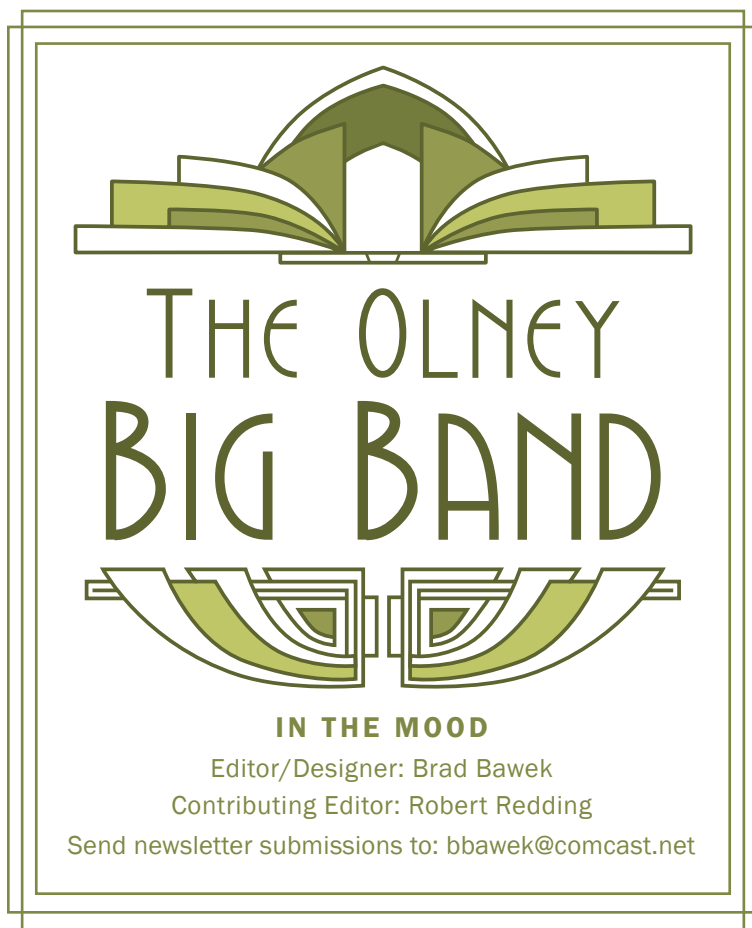
Music Director: Dr. Rip G. Rice  
Asst. Music Director: Dennis Johnson  
Business Manager: David B. Schumer

## Officers

Dr. Rip G. Rice, President  
Robert Redding, VP for Public Relations  
David B. Schumer, Secretary/Treasurer

## Board of Directors

Dr. Rip G. Rice, Chairman  
Brad Bawek  
Merle Biggin  
Thomas Harwick (Founder)  
Dennis Johnson  
Glenn Ochsenreiter  
Robert Redding  
David B. Schumer  
Richard Sonnenschein



## OBB Events Schedule

Sunday, Oct 14 - The Oak Room , Sandy Spring Firehouse, Dance and Brunch, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.\*

Saturday, October 20 - Friends House, Tea Dance, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Oct 28 - Faith United Methodist Church, Rockville, MD, Pumpkin-fest, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov 11 - The Oak Room , Sandy Spring Firehouse, Dance and Brunch, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.\*

Sunday, Dec 9 - The Oak Room , Sandy Spring Firehouse, Dance and Brunch, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.\*

## REHEARSALS

Mondays  
Oct 1, 15 – Nov 5, 19 – Dec 3, 17  
*All full band rehearsals*

\* The Oak Room at Sandy Spring:  
<http://www.ssbballroom.com/>

\*\* Closed to Public

## Quotable

“ Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”

- Mark Twain

## For Band Information Contact

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## For Booking Information Contact

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