

**GENEVA CONCERTS**  
presents



Saturday, September 21, 2002  
8:15 p.m.





**GENEVA CONCERTS, INC.**  
**2002-2003 SEASON**

**The Dukes of Dixieland**

Saturday, September 21, 2002

*Blowing Traditional Jazz into the 21st Century*

**Syracuse Symphony Orchestra**

**Daniel Hege, Conductor**

**Eliot Fisk, Guitar**

Thursday, October 17, 2002

*Daugherty, Radrigo, Prokofiev*

**Orquesta La Modern Tradieión**

Friday, November 22, 2002

*Performing Classical Cuban Dance Music*

**Syracuse Symphony Orchestra**

**Daniel Hege, Conductor**

**Olga Kern, Piano**

Thursday, March 23, 2003

*Featuring the 2001 Van Cliburn Gold Medalist*

**Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Jeff Tzyik, Principal Pops Conductor**

**Mark Kellogg, Trombone**

Friday, April 11, 2003

*Kernis, De Falla, Tyzik, Bernstein, Stravinsky*

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All Performances at Smith Opera House  
82 Seneca Street, Geneva, NY

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and by a continuing subscription from  
Hobart and William Smith Colleges

## PROGRAM

### THE DUKES OF DIXIELAND

(Please note that names of selections to be played will be announced from the stage during the performance).

#### THE “ROYALTY OF JAZZ” FROM NEW ORLEANS



**T**he Dukes of Dixieland is the oldest continuing jazz band in America, and their sound is still fresh!

The Dukes, over the years, have worked hard to preserve their sound and to bring audiences

the very heart and soul of New Orleans to people around the world. Making their home on the Steamboat Natchez, the Dukes play for nightly cruises on the river when not on tour.

This distinguished group also claims the distinction of being one of the few Dixieland jazz ensembles to appear as special guests with numerous symphony orchestra. Among these have been the orchestras of Cleveland, Baltimore, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, the National Symphony, and the New York Pops.

We proudly welcome the Dukes of Dixieland to Geneva and the Smith Opera House.

#### **The Dukes of Dixieland Musicians**

Earl Bonie—*Clarinet*  
Michael Fulton—*Trumpet*  
Ben Smith—*Trombone and Vocals*  
Scott Obenschain—*Piano*  
Everett Link—*Bass*  
Richard Taylor—*Drums/Leader*



## ABOUT THE DUKES OF DIXIELAND



In the summer of 1974, television producer and artist manager, John Shoup, was looking for quality New Orleans jazz bands for a television series, *"Dixieland Jazz From New Orleans"*. To his dismay, there were none, other than the usual "pick up" bands

up and down Bourbon Street.

Earlier that year, Frank Assunto, founder of the Dukes of Dixieland, had passed away and even that band had become a "pick up" band in the late 60s and early 70s. That left Pete Fountain, Al Hirt, and any one of the three Preservation Hall bands. This would not work for the series concept Shoup had in mind, so he reformed the Dukes of Dixieland, hiring only the best local musicians. Unfortunately, he found that no one was any longer interested in hiring the band for concerts, or for that matter, even the clubs on Bourbon Street didn't want them. The Dukes had hit "the bottom of the barrel."

Shoup decided they needed a home to regroup and rehearse. He flew out to Las Vegas in the summer of 1974, met with Louis Prima at his golf club, and took over Mr. Prima's lease atop the Monteleone Hotel in the New Orleans French Quarter. The club was renamed "Dukes' Place" and they made it their home for 12 years before moving in 1985 to their newly remodeled club, "Mahogany Hall," on Bourbon Street. In 1991 they couldn't turn down an offer from the New Orleans Steamboat Company to make their permanent home aboard the Steamboat Natchez at the Toulouse Street wharf.

The Dukes still perform on the Natchez nightly, as well as fly out of town some 30 to 40 days a year to appear in concert at venues around the world. They have also appeared with many of the great New Orleans artists. The Dukes have also performed as the headliner at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Wolf Trap, Ravinia Park, and the Blue Note Clubs in Japan. In addition- they perform with various symphony orchestras throughout the county, plus before some prestigious world leaders.

## WHO ARE WE



### **Earl Bonie**—*Clarinet*

When Earl was only three, he saw one of Leonard Bernstein's concerts on television. Delighted by the music, he pestered his parents for records, and got an early start to his classics collection with a copy of *The Firebird*. Earl learned to play in his elementary school band program, taking up the sax in 5th grade. In college he studied jazz at the University of Miami, then returned to New Orleans to play in the city's famed Blue Room with the Bill Clifford Orchestra. As a Blue Room musician he played for such greats as Ella Fitzgerald, Cleo Laine, and George Shearing. Earl took a year to play with a rock band, and also did a hitch with the Army, playing with the Army Band in Germany. Back in New Orleans since 1991, he has played with the bands aboard the *Delta Queen* and the *American Queen*, and with the *Storyville Stompers*, before starting with the *Dukes of Dixieland*. Bonie's warm liquid sound make "Petite Fleur" a highlight at a *Dukes* concert.



### **Michael Fulton**—*Trumpet*

Mike Fulton lights up with animation as he talks about jazz, describing "the freedom — and the collaboration" he feels with the music. As a child learning the accordion (his mother played), he watched Doc Severinsen on television and wanted to play trumpet. When he was 11, he took up the instrument. His first gig was playing in a sextet for the local Elks Club while he was still in junior high. From then on, there have always been bands in his life. After studying for several years at Central Washington University, he began his career playing on *Princess*, *Carnival*, and *Royal Caribbean* cruise ships in the Caribbean. By his mid-20s, he was back playing the music of Louis Armstrong and Harry James, and played with Bob Snyder at the Grand Hotel in Mackinaw Island, Michigan. Fulton had always admired the *Dukes of Dixieland*, and he became friends with members of the group. This led to chances to sit in and play with the *Dukes* aboard the *Steamboat Natchez*, and, eventually, to joining the *Dukes* on trumpet. Now he's the man out front, adding the bright brass to the *Dukes'* sound.



**Ben Smith—*Trombone and Vocals***

Ben Smith started playing in the streets of New Orleans at the age of 9, and hasn't stopped since. Ben cut his teeth on jazz, centering his talents on the trombone. He studied music at Loyola University in New Orleans and the University of Minnesota in St. Paul before setting out on a career

that has taken him to such places as Disney World and Circus World as well as New Orleans' own world of fantasy, Bourbon Street.



**Scott Obenschain—*Piano***

Scott Obenschain studied classical piano starting at the age of 4. His grandparents, wanting to hear music from "their era," encouraged him to listen to their record collections and play "by ear." Scott fell in love with the music. By the time he was in high school, he was playing Dixieland. In college, he continued to perfect his art. He is a graduate in music from James Madison University.



**Everett Link—*Bass***

Like many native New Orleans musicians, Everett Link began playing in elementary school. Everett says that he signed up to play because "it was a good way to get out of class." He began on cello, but eventually developed an infatuation with the string bass. While still in high school, Everett joined as many bands as time would permit. He later turned his energy to rock n' roll and also to R&B, which led to several commercials and numerous recordings. His introduction to Dixieland

music came when he landed a job with the famous Tailgate Ramblers Teagarden. The Ramblers played to standing room only crowds on Bourbon Street, and the experience led Everett to recording sessions, television dates, and nightclub gigs. He later joined the Ronnie Kole Trio, and that association lasted more than 25 years. Everett has performed with such notable artists as Dr. John, Al Hirt, Pete Fountain, Allen Toussaint, and Roberta Sherwood. Watch and listen when Everett teams up with Richard Taylor for "Big Noise from Winnetka."



**Richard Taylor—Drums/Leader**

His father thought it was "cute" when Richard Taylor started playing the drums as a child. By the time he was 15, it was more than cute, it was the beginning of a career. Growing up in Chicago, he first heard the Assunto's Dukes of Dixieland when he was only 14. It was a sound that stayed with him. Out of high school, the self-taught Taylor started his own rock n' roll band, playing in local night-spots. Rock eventually led to r&b, recordings with Chess Records with the likes of Muddy Waters, and touring throughout the United States. Taylor went on to big band music in Chicago, then started his own blues band. In 1962, Richard hooked up with Ronnie Kole's band. Two years later he moved to New Orleans to work with Al Hirt. He later rejoined Kole's band, which led to appearances on The Tonight Show, The Mike Douglas Show, and world-wide travels. Taylor's recent work is no less impressive. He has backed up Don Rickles, played a television special with Duke Ellington, and worked with Al Hirt and Pete Fountain. He's been part of many jazz festivals, played with Banu Gibson, Murphy Campo and Connie Jones, and worked all over Las Vegas, abroad to China, and up and down Bourbon Street. Richard's high energy drum solos, and his version of "Big Noise from Winnetka," played with Everett Link, always bring the audience to its feet.

*There they are—*

*The Dukes of Dixieland!*