



## BLACK SWAN CLASSIC JAZZ BAND BIOGRAPHY

Black Swan will delight you with exciting selections from the Roaring Twenties, the era of hot jazz bands and colorful characters. You will revel in Dixieland, vintage jazz, ragtime and old-time gospel music presented by one of the top traditional jazz bands in the country. Black Swan features the sizzling talents of vocalists Marilyn Keller and Alan Phillips, and sports top-notch trumpet, clarinet, trombone, tuba, piano, banjo and drum instrumentalists.

From a play list of 300-plus scores, our selections are tailored to our sponsors' unique needs. In addition to "variety" concerts, choose from outstanding feature presentations. Our uplifting Jazz Gospel service is a popular favorite that never fails to enchant the house. Theme shows include:

- ♪ Hoagy Carmichael
- ♪ Fats Waller Favorites
- ♪ Ain't Nothin' but the Blues, and
- ♪ Ragtime Revelry

Every Black Swan performance celebrates the cultural heritage of this wonderful American music.

Since 1989 Black Swan has performed for artistic venues, festivals and dances throughout the western United States, Alaska, British Columbia and the Caribbean. Based in Portland, this versatile group can softly caress an intimate room, fire up a large concert hall, and keep dancers "cutting a rug".

Delight in hearing authentic renditions of the music of noteworthy early jazz figures such as Jelly Roll Morton, Louis Armstrong, King Oliver, Duke Ellington, Fletcher



Henderson, Hoagy Carmichael, Fats Waller, Turk Murphy, Eubie Blake, Scott Joplin and others. You will hear a strong mix of music performed by few other bands, originals by members of Black Swan and many popular favorites you know and love.

The Black Swan Classic Jazz Band can be contacted by calling Kit Johnson (503)292-7673, sending an email to [kit@bscjb.com](mailto:kit@bscjb.com), or by writing to the band at 7785 SW West Slope Drive, Portland, OR 97225.

More information is available on our Internet site at [www.bscjb.com](http://www.bscjb.com)



# Biography

## BLACK SWAN CLASSIC JAZZ BAND IS:

### Marilyn Keller, *vocalist*

Marilyn brings a special magic to the stage with her mesmerizing presence and flawless vocal stylings. Diversity is one of her greatest assets and she displays it by appearing with Black Swan and a wide variety of other performance groups and styles: The Don Latarski Group, Tall Jazz, Tom Grant, Michael Allen Harrison and the Augustana Jazz Quartet to name a few.

Marilyn was trained vocally as a member of the Mt. Hood Community College Vocal Jazz Ensemble and as a vocalist fronting the award-winning MHCC Jazz Lab Band. She is the featured vocalist at the Jazz Worship Service at Augustana Lutheran Church every Sunday and can be seen frequently at restaurants, clubs, festivals and holiday events throughout the Pacific Northwest.



### Alan Phillips, *banjo & vocalist*

Alan is Black Swan's banjo man, and is also one of our favorite, feature vocalists. Alan was with Black Swan between 1990 and 1995 and rejoined the ensemble in 1998. Originally a french horn



major at the University of Oregon, Alan realized the day was fast approaching when his parents would stop paying his bills. After 5 years of college and playing his degree recital he left (just two 100 level courses short of completing his degree - "oh happy parents!") to study piano tuning and restoration in Boston. This combined his love of music with a more practical approach to making a living.

Piano tuning has given Alan the flexibility to also be a part-time musician. The french horn has become a guitar or a banjo. He has performed with the Eugene Symphony and the Oregon Festival of American Music. He was a member of the Misty Water Drifters, the Drag Kings, the Hackers and the Emerald City Jazz Kings. Alan currently is leader of the Eugene based string/swing band SWANG.

### John Bennett, *piano*

One of Wallace, Idaho's native sons, John grew up in La Grande and Portland, Oregon, where he helped pay his Lewis and Clark College tuition by playing in a burlesque theater (he claims to be the only pit piano player who never looked up from the keyboard). He has taught public and private school music in The Dalles, Warm Springs and Portland and keeps active in the live music scene with band and solo work.

A few years ago, John realized his interest in early 20th-century American music by forming The Swipesy Cakewalk Ragtime Band, a group performing at numerous summer outdoor sites, and the Dill Pickles, a trio participating in the Young Audiences program in Portland grade schools. Based on a library of original scores, John has arranged works by Scott Joplin, James P. Scott, "Jelly Roll" Morton and others, offering Black Swan audiences an overview of this unique era in American music.

John supplements his musical talents by interpreting Russian and has advanced degrees in teaching, linguistics and music.





# Biography

## Lew Chapman, *trombone*

"Never seen a horn like that before!" Lew Chapman hears that comment after just about every Black Swan festival set performed for first time listeners of the band. New fans are always intrigued by his "Superbone," a combination slide/valve trombone which has been Lew's unique trademark since 1976.



After graduating from high school he attended the Naval School of Music in Little Creek, Virginia and was assigned to the 214th Army Band (Forscom's Own) in Atlanta, Georgia in 1975. During this assignment, Lew played solo euphonium in the concert band and trombone in the jazz and dixieland ensembles. He says he really learned how to play jazz by "sitting in" at the local clubs in Atlanta in the late '70's and early '80's, and by listening to everything he could get his hands on, from Louis Armstrong to John Coltrane. During this rewarding career in the U.S. Army, Lew

became so adept as an improvisationalist, that, in 1987, he was asked to join the "cream of the crop" Jazz Ambassadors. The JA is the 19 piece official touring jazz big band of the Army, performing free concerts for audiences all over the world.

After 24 years of working in Uncle Sam's bands, Lew chose to hang up his combat boots and move back to the Pacific Northwest where he grew up. A month after moving, he met Black Swan's vocalist, Marilyn Keller. It was through Marilyn that Lew landed the gig with the Swans.

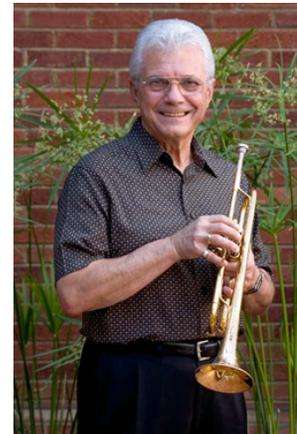
In 2001, Lew headed north from the Willamette Valley and settled back in his hometown of South Bend, Washington, where he resides today.

Even though Lew plays all styles of music, he says there's something very rewarding and special about playing the popular music of the early 20th century. "It's where jazz started....without Trummy Young, Jack Teagarden and all the many early jazz trombone pioneers, I wouldn't be where I'm at today. I'll be forever grateful for those 'teachers' that I can still listen to today."

## Ernie Carbajal, *trumpet*

One of the founding members of Black Swan, Ernie joined the band and the traditional jazz scene in 1989 and is still blowing strong today. He brings with him a prestigious career in a wide variety of musical endeavors. Ernie was a staff musician at the Phoenix Star Theater in Arizona for two years and a member of the house band at the Riverside Ballroom for three years. Ernie also paid his dues on the road with the Pedro Bugarin Orchestra, a salsa band that traveled throughout the western half of the United States.

Just before joining Black Swan, Ernie did a special performance series and recording project with Anthony Braxton on the Black Saint record label. In the more recent past, Ernie has been on contract with the Oregon Festival of American Music. This association has provided him the opportunity to work with pianist, Dick Hyman, and alongside such prominent musicians as trumpeters, Byron Stripling and Randy Sandke; trombonist, Bill Watrous and clarinetist, Ken Peplowski. Ernie has also performed with Big Tiny Little and the vocal group, The Temptations.



Ernie's other credits include performances with the Ringling Brothers Circus Band, the Ice Follies, the Ice Capades, the Lane Community Faculty Brass Quintet, the Emerald City Jazz Kings, and the Dana Lutes Ensemble. Currently, Ernie is working as a freelance musician playing vibraphone, flugel horn and trumpet doing everything from duos to big bands.



# Biography

## **Kit Johnson**, *tuba*

Kit is Black Swan's founder, manager, tuba player and head roadie. After starting on trumpet in the fifth grade, Kit switched to tuba in 1974, his freshman year of high school, and has been playing the "big brass" ever since. Kit was a three-time recipient of the Close Music Award at the University of Oregon School of Music, where he completed music and accounting degrees with honors.

He was featured as solo tubist throughout Europe with the 76th US Army Band, and began organizing Dixieland bands after he returned to the states. Kit's earlier ventures evolved into Black Swan in 1989. He has performed with many of the traditional jazz bands and musicians: Uptown Lowdown, Buck Creek, Stumptown, with Jazz.

A prolific arranger, Kit has contributed 150+ charts to the Black Swan library.



## **Ron Leach**, *drums*

Ron is the newest member of the Black Swan, jumping into the fray in October 2000. For several decades Ron has performed with jazz, country western, blues, rock, polka, bluegrass and folk ensembles around the Willamette Valley. Raised in Corvallis, Oregon, Ron's musical upbringing was the public school system. In 1992 he began serious music studies with Mel Brown. At the time, Mel was with the Temptations and later Diana Ross. Ron began teaching at various music stores in the local communities and to this day has always maintained a student teaching schedule.



In 1994 Ron decided to follow his dream of being a full time musician and moved to Portland. His first job was house drummer and Music Director for the Queen of the West sternwheeler on the Columbia River for over two years.

Just before joining the Swans, Ron began attending intense percussion studies in Havana, Cuba for several weeks at a time. "Probably only other drummers will understand what an impact these studies have had on my overall music outlook." Ron currently studies the sounds of Baby Dodds, Sonny Greer and other early jazz percussion masters. "I am enjoying my tenure with Black Swan and helping forge a great rhythm section feel."

## **Steve Matthes**, *clarinet*

Steve Matthes, clarinetist with the Black Swan Classic Jazz Band since 1992, is a busy and versatile musician in the Corvallis area. Steve directs the Corvallis Community Band, makes guest solo and conducting appearances with the Oregon State University Symphonic Band and teaches clarinet and saxophone.

Steve's musical background includes stints as director and clarinetist for numerous OSU ensembles and a hitch in the U.S. Army Infantry Center Band at Fort Benning, Georgia. Steve has also performed with the Western Opera Theater, the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra and the orchestra for the Red Skelton Show. Traditional jazz appearances include Stumptown Jazz, Hume Street, Dr. Jon's, OSU alumni jazz bands (including Homer Welch and George Bruns) and the Opera House Saloon house band in Columbus, GA.

One of Steve's favorite memories is directing the combined UCLA-OSU Marching Bands in "The Star Spangled Banner" at the Mirage Bowl in Tokyo Olympic Stadium before 80,000 fans and on Japanese national TV. Steve proudly notes that all his kids are becoming accomplished musicians, dancers or artists.





# Performance History

The Black Swan Classic Jazz Band has performed at a wide variety of venues, including:

## MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVALS

- ♪ Aberdeen Rain or Shine Festival
- ♪ America's Festival in Olympia
- ♪ Arizona Classic Festival
- ♪ Arts Northwest
- ♪ Bix Beiderbecke Festival in Davenport
- ♪ Chilliwack Dixieland Festival
- ♪ Coos Bay Clambake
- ♪ Del Mar Commotion By The Ocean
- ♪ Diggin' Dixie at the Beach Festival
- ♪ Dixieland Festival at Sea Cruises
- ♪ Eugene's All-Oregon Jazz Party
- ♪ Fresno Mardi Gras
- ♪ Glacier Jazz Stampede in Kalispell
- ♪ Harvest Festival
- ♪ High Mountains Festival at Sisters
- ♪ Hot or Cool Jazz Festivals
- ♪ Jazz at Indian Wells
- ♪ Jazz in the Olympics
- ♪ Jazz in the Ozarks
- ♪ Long Beach Ragtime Rhodie Festival
- ♪ Medford Jazz Jubilee
- ♪ Monterey Jazz Festival
- ♪ Newberg Old-Fashioned Festival
- ♪ Orange County Jazz Festival
- ♪ Oregon Bach Festival
- ♪ Oregon Dixieland Festival
- ♪ Palm Springs Jazz Festival
- ♪ Port Townsend's Centrum Hot Jazz Festival
- ♪ Portland's Rose City Jazz Festival
- ♪ Sacramento Jazz Jubilee
- ♪ San Diego Dixieland Festival
- ♪ Seaside and All That Jazz Festival
- ♪ Sequim Art, Wine and All That Jazz
- ♪ Sonoma County Festival
- ♪ Spokane Dixieland Festival
- ♪ Tri-Cities Dixieland Festival
- ♪ Vancouver B.C. DixieFest
- ♪ West Seattle Dixieland Festival
- ♪ Whidby Island Festival in Oak Harbor

## COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

- ♪ 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church in Shoreline
- ♪ 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in Corvallis
- ♪ Canby Performing Arts
- ♪ Clatskanie Performing Arts
- ♪ Clubs, dances and parties
- ♪ Coquille Arts Association
- ♪ Corvallis' Majestic Theater
- ♪ County Fairs
- ♪ Eugene Pro Rodeo
- ♪ Florence Performing Arts Association
- ♪ Grand Openings
- ♪ Heritage Dance Parties
- ♪ Hotels, Resorts & Casinos
- ♪ McMennamin Brothers Pubs
- ♪ Norris Center for the Performing Arts
- ♪ Olympia Jazz Society
- ♪ Parks Concerts
- ♪ Political rallies and fundraisers
- ♪ Portland Sternwheeler
- ♪ Portland's Old Church
- ♪ Puget Sound Traditional Jazz Society
- ♪ Queen of the West Cruises
- ♪ Seminars, Conventions & Annual Meetings
- ♪ Traditional Jazz Societies of Oregon
- ♪ Tri-Cities Traditional Jazz Society
- ♪ United Methodist Church in Palos Verdes
- ♪ Weddings, wakes and other sober occasions
- ♪ Wineries and Vineyards



# Fats Waller Favorites

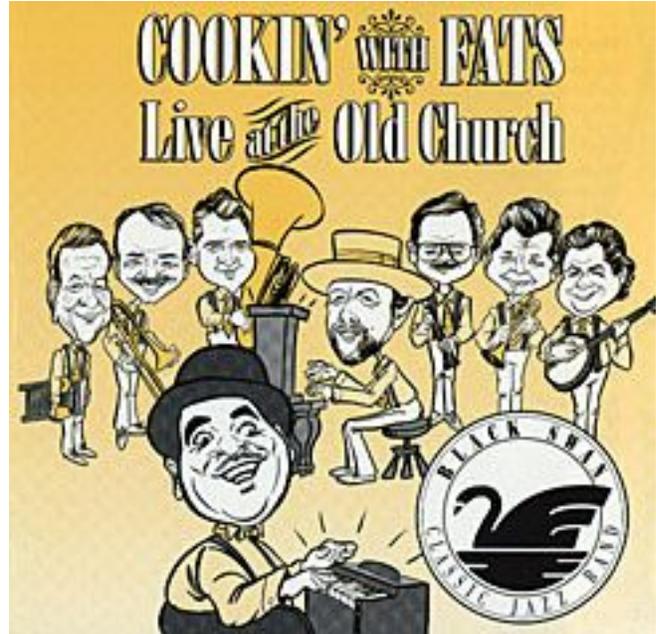
Black Swan Classic Jazz Band is proud to present **COOKIN' WITH FATS**, a special concert (also available on CD) featuring the music of the great **FATS WALLER**.

Are *Your Feet's Too Big*? Feelin' *Black and Blue*? Is your event *Lookin' Good But Feelin' Bad*? Is life just generally *Fat and Greasy*? You'll be Keepin' Out of Mischief Now with the Black Swan Classic Jazz Band and a special program featuring the music of **FATS WALLER**.

Favorites like *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Honeysuckle Rose* and *Jitterbug Waltz* are effectively mixed with rarely heard Waller gems such as *Cash for Your Trash* and songs by other composers made popular by **FATS**.

**TRIVIA QUESTION:** What was the first published song by Fats Waller?

**ANSWER:** *Squeeze Me...* written when **FATS** was only 15 years old!



All of the tunes in **COOKIN' WITH FATS** have been specially arranged by the Black Swan Classic Jazz Band to provide a program of **HUMOR, HOT JAZZ, BALLADS, NOVELTY TUNES, VARIETY** and **GREAT MUSIC!**

**FATS** was the 'master' jazz pianist of his day, and the Black Swan's own 'master', John Bennett, captures the Waller wizardry in a number of piano features. Vocalists Marilyn Keller, Alan Phillips (banjo), John Bennett and Steve Matthes (clarinet) bring out the **CHARM, SLY WIT, and DOUBLE ENTENDRES** of the clever Waller vocals.

The Black Swan Classic Jazz Band ensemble led by the brass team of Ernie Carbajal (trumpet) and Lew Chapman (trombone) and driven by Ron Leach (drums) **SWING** like the best of Fats' jazz groups. Coupled with leader Kit Johnson's (tuba) announcing and commentary on the life and music of **FATS WALLER, COOKIN' WITH FATS** provides a great evening (or afternoon) of **ENTERTAINMENT** and **HOT JAZZ!**

**"Look out!... Well, what did I say?"**

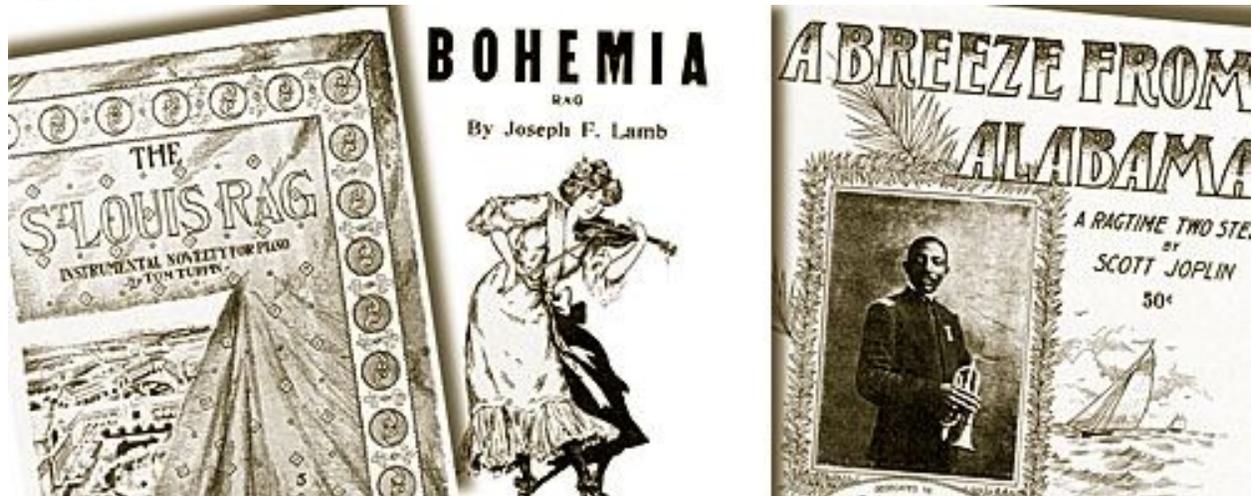


# Ragtime Revelry

**RAGTIME, CAKEWALKS, MARCH TWO-STEPS** and similar favorites from the late 1800s through 1915 are the featured selections in Black Swan Classic Jazz Band's **RAGTIME SHOW**.

John Bennett has long been recognized as one of the premiere Pacific Northwest ragtime pianists and is often featured performing ragtime for **YOUNG AUDIENCE** concerts and other occasions. His talents take center stage throughout the show as a soloist and as featured member of the ensemble.

With over three hours of ragtime arrangements by John, Kit Johnson (tuba) and Steve Matthes (clarinet) the Black Swan Classic Jazz Band has ample music for feature sets at a Dixieland festival or a full night's concert.



You will enjoy music by **SCOTT JOPLIN, TED SNYDER, JOSEPH LAMB, ROBERT HAMPTON, JELLY ROLL MORTON, GEORGE GERSHWIN, WILLIAM KRELL, TURK MURPHY, WILLIAM BOLCOM, CHARLES JOHNSON, WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER O'HARE** and others.

Ragtime favorites such as *Maple Leaf Rag*, Kerry Mills' *Ragtime Dance*, *Frog-i-more Rag* and *Eccentric Rag* are intermixed with rare gems like *Levee Revels*, *St. Louis Tickle*, *Ragtime Nightmare*, *Chevy Chase*, *St. Louis Rag*, *Old Virginny Barbeque* and more. You will hear the first published ragtime tune (*Mississippi Rag*) as well as rags written in the 1970s (*Old Adam*).

Black Swan's splendid vocalists Marilyn Keller and Alan Phillips are also featured, singing vocal rags: *Junk Man Rag*, Joplin's *Ragtime Dance*, *Barnyard Rag*, *Dill Pickles Rag*, *Creole Belle* and many more can be heard.

Plenty of informational tidbits are provided along the way to satisfy historians and casual listeners alike.

This is a **WONDERFUL** way to round out the program for your next event!



# Old-Time Gospel

Black Swan offers a program of old-time gospel music that traditional jazz fans and members of your church congregation can enjoy. Kit Johnson works closely with local clergy to provide a show that is entertaining and appropriate for your group and venue.

**The vocal talent of Marilyn Keller is a religious experience not to be missed!!!**

We generally perform our **GOSPEL SHOW** as a stand alone concert, but are happy to perform in conjunction with a service provided by your chosen spiritual leader.

You'll hear favorites like *Fifty Miles of Elbow Room*, *Old Rugged Cross* and *Deep River*. Sing along on classics like *When the Saints Go Marching In*, *In the Sweet By and By*, *When the Roll is Called Up Yonder* or *Down by the Riverside*.

Enjoy medleys of tunes like *This Little Light of Mine*, *Will the Circle be Unbroken?*, *Roll Jordan Roll*, *Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho*, *Wayfaring Stranger*, *Old Time Religion* and *Do Lord!* Or just sit back and enjoy Marilyn's incredible versions of poignant worship hymns like *Precious Lord, His Eye is on the Sparrow* or *Amazing Grace*.



Listen to more recent popular hits such as *Gonna Build a Mountain*, *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit*, *This Train* or *Operator*.

You can even enjoy ragtime selections, including *Old Adam*, *The Eternal Feminine*, *Holy Moses* and *Solace*.

Our unique arrangements offer vocal features, entertaining medleys and, as always, hot jazz! Ernie Carbajal leads the way on trumpet reminding us of Gabriel and his horn. Steve Matthes' old-time revival tunes, Lew Chapman's golden trombone tones, and John Bennett's and Kit Johnson's medleys round out the show.

Let our experienced Dixieland artists provide a **CELEBRATION of FAITH, GREAT FUN** and **FAMILY PARTICIPATION** for your next gospel program.



# Hoagy Carmichael

In the beginning episode of Ken Burns' jazz series, viewers were mesmerized by the incredible performance of the young Louis Armstrong playing a very familiar tune... Hoagy Carmichael's **Star Dust**.

It is not surprising that Ken Burns selected this segment to begin his monumental jazz series, for it is not only one of Louis Armstrong's finest performances on film, but the song **Star Dust** is perhaps the most



well known and beloved in all American popular music. Hoagy Carmichael has left us a rich legacy of songs that have become standards for performers of jazz and popular music all over the world.

In honor of Hoagy Carmichael's (1899-1981) centennial, The Black Swan Classic Jazz Band put together a collection of wonderful Hoagy Carmichael tunes with commentary about Hoagy's career in a Hoagy Carmichael Tribute. Besides the well known standards **Star Dust**, **Georgia on My Mind**, and **Up The Lazy River**, this special set includes rarely heard gems such as **Boneyard Shuffle** (an early Hoagy tune from 1926), **New Orleans** (1927) and **Manhattan Rag** (1929- Hoagy's only ragtime composition).

Hoagy wrote many of his own lyrics and also collaborated with many of the finest lyricists of his day (Johnny Mercer, Mitchell Parish, Ned Washington, Frank Loesser). Our own Marilyn Keller gives her special vocal treatment to several great Hoagy tunes such as **Small Fry**, **Rockin' Chair**, **The Nearness of You**, **Washboard Blues**, **Serenade to Gabriel**, the oh so familiar **Heart and Soul**, the uplifting **Jubilee**, and the rollicking **Old Man Harlem**.

The humorous **Lazybones** and western flavored **Ole Buttermilk Sky** get colorful renditions by banjoist/vocalist Alan Phillips. Each of the tunes is presented in a special Black Swan arrangement providing a varied and interesting program, which showcase the members of the band in settings ranging from beautiful ballads, to the hilarious (Hoagy's arrangement of **Barnacle Bill the Sailor**), to high energy show-stoppers. Of course no Hoagy Carmichael set would be complete without his first published song **Riverboat Shuffle** (1924 - originally called **Free Wheeling**) written for his good friend Bix Beiderbecke and the Wolverine Orchestra.

Let the Black Swan Classic Jazz Band entertain your next event with the timeless music of Hoagy Carmichael.



# Marketing & Promotion

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Regular and custom marketing activities available from Black Swan include:

**American Rag**

We advertise the band's upcoming schedule (including your event) every month in the West Coast's most popular traditional jazz newspaper. Display ads of all sizes can also be arranged if desired.

**Newsletter**

We periodically publish and mail a newsletter detailing Black Swan activities and upcoming events, and mail it to members of our 1900-person mailing list. Even more frequently, we send out upcoming schedules to our increasing number of email-enabled fans.

**KMHD Radio**

We provide regular announcements of Black Swan performances on the weekly traditional jazz program broadcast at 9:00 am Saturday and Sunday in the Portland metro area. In addition, Black Swan recordings are frequently heard on this and other popular radio shows.

**Press Releases**

We submit press releases to local press advertising your event when you provide contact names and addresses.

**Announcements**

We have a mailing list of 1900 Black Swan fans (folks who want to know about our performances) and maintain it diligently. We can direct flyers to specific locations for the best response to your event.

**Internet**

We provide frequent updates to the Black Swan's Web site, located at [www.bscjb.com](http://www.bscjb.com). Our Web site includes information on your event well in advance of the performance date. Look for a synopsis of the band's performance history, current bios, pictures, recordings, arrangements, shows and other items of interest on our Web site as well.

**Other**

We provide posters for display; handouts at events; networking with our informal fan club; and we're constantly looking for new and exciting ways to get the word out about your event!