

**JAZZ at the CENTER:
A Celebration of the Music of Bucky Pizzarelli**

by Ed Benson

When I heard that Bucky was once again performing in Camden, SC, I could hardly believe it. Camden, SC! I didn't even know where it was. The Wood Auditorium at the Fine Arts Center is one of the finest venues I've been to. The acoustics were great and the playing was nothing short of sensational.

The evening began an hour before the concert with a reception hosted by Sims Music and Bill Comins, and gave us an opportunity to view some beautiful vintage guitars and meet the players.

Promptly at 8, the sold-out concert began with two tunes performed by the jazz guitar summit: Richard Maxwell, Jerry Sims, Dwight Spencer and James Hall.

Most of the players were playing 7-string Comins guitars. Bill Comins joined the group on a number of tunes, playing one of his 6 string guitars.

Bucky was then introduced to a warm welcome and kicked off the set with "Tangerine" and "Azure'te" performing with the summit. He then soloed beautifully on "Easy to Remember" and "This Nearly Was Mine." He was playing a laminate 7-string Benedetto.

Bucky and Jerry Sims did a warp speed "Limehouse Blues" and Bucky and Richard Maxwell followed with "In A Mellow Tone." Dwight Spencer joined Bucky in "Jitterbug Waltz."

After a short intermission Jerry soloed on "Cry Me A River" and "Girl Talk." Some other highlights were "Nuages" and a terrific version of "Sing, Sing, Sing" performed with Bucky and the summit.

On Saturday, many of the performers played in solo or duo settings at various venues in downtown Camden making for a fun afternoon and evening.

Jerry, Richard and Dwight did an outstanding workshop on Saturday morning, which was well attended.

It was worth the three-hour drive from Atlanta. I've already booked my room for next year. If you can make it to Camden, don't miss this concert next April. Hopefully, Bucky will be back. He's truly amazing. The next morning he got on a plane to do a festival in Odessa, TX. The man never rests.

Photos courtesy Elaine Floyd

www.elainefloydphoto.com

Elaine duPont Floyd

16 Governor's Hill Columbia, SC 29201

803-920-1958 elaine.floyd@gmail.com



Richard Maxwell, Jerry Sims, Dwight Spencer, James Hall and luthier Bill Comins.



Bucky and the Jazz Guitar Summit



Bucky and Richard Maxwell



Jerry Sims and Bucky



Bucky and Dwight Spencer



Bucky taking a well-deserved bow.