

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The Island University

6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78412 361.825.2420 FAX 361.825.2620

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CONTACT: Dr. Lari Young 361.825.2374; or Cassandra Hinojosa 361.825.2337

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‘Riverwalk Jazz’ Brings the Swinging Rhythms of Pre-World War II America to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Furgason Bravo! Series features the Jim Cullum Jazz Band, special guest Dick Hyman

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The stage will be jumping with the swinging rhythms of pre-World War II America when “Riverwalk Jazz” comes to the Performing Arts Center at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi on Thursday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m.

“Riverwalk Jazz,” featuring the Jim Cullum Jazz Band with special guest Dick Hyman, is part of the fifth anniversary Furgason Bravo! Series at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Since 1987, the Jim Cullum Jazz Band has been heard in “Riverwalk Jazz” on more than 50 National Public Radio stations, including Corpus Christi’s KEDT 90.3 FM on Friday nights at 9 p.m. Over the last two decades, the band has appeared at worldwide jazz festivals throughout the world and major venues including Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center.

The band plays jazz in the style of small, hot ensembles that became popular prior to World War II with a repertoire that ranges from 19th-century cakewalks to the small pre-war Benny Goodman ensembles. The core of the band’s music consists of the sounds of Jelly Roll Morton, Original Dixieland Jazz Band, New Orleans Rhythm Kings, King Oliver Creole Jazz Band, Louis Armstrong, and Sidney Bechet, with a strong emphasis on Bix Beiderbecke and Hoagy Carmichael. Each band member is a specialist in historically informed jazz styles with period instruments being featured in many songs.

Since the early 1950s, special guest Dick Hyman has performed as a stride pianist and organist and today has credits on more than 100 albums. As an arranger, music

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director and composer, he has researched ragtime and the earliest periods of jazz and has recorded the piano music of Scott Joplin, Jelly Roll Morton, James P. Johnson, Zez Confrey, Eubie Blake and Fats Waller.

Hyman has served as composer/arranger/conductor/pianist for the Woody Allen films “Zelig,” “Hannah and Her Sisters,” “Radio Days,” “Mighty Aphrodite,” “Everyone Says ‘I Love You’” and “Melinda and Melinda.” Other scores have included “Moonstruck,” “Scott Joplin” and “King of Ragtime.”

“Riverwalk Jazz” is sponsored by KEDT South Texas Public Broadcasting, Clear Channel Radio, KLUX Radio and the City of Corpus Christi Arts & Cultural Commission. Tickets are \$20 to \$30 for adults and \$7 for children and students. To order tickets, go to <http://tamucc.tix.com>; or call 361.825.2787 (ARTS) to charge by phone.

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