



THE HAPPIEST MUSIC ON EARTH!



*The **Get Happy Jazz Band*** is a unique, instrumental band located in the hills of Chattanooga, TN. *Get Happy's* distinctive sound is kindled by a belief that music should be fun and bring joy to others. *Get Happy* uses a method of collective improvisation to blend traditional jazz, gospel, spirituals, country, et al to create an original style of music - the "**Happiest Music on Earth!**"

*The **Get Happy Jazz Band*** began in May of 2020. During the pandemic lock down, Kimberly, RubyMarie and Jim Altenberg were all at home desiring an activity that would inspire joy. Playing music was a past-time they could enjoy together. They gathered their collection of saxophones and settled on Traditional Jazz. They were drawn to the music's cheerful sound. Soon they added a trombone and a banjo by inviting Gordon and Velma Willis (Kimberly's parents) to join them. After several weeks of practicing, they mastered a handful of songs. Kimberly's vision became sharing the joy of their music with others who were lonely during the lockdown. She called her idea "Jazz Caroling". They travelled to shut-ins and "Jazz Caroled" on the front lawn. Word quickly spread, and soon requests from families were flooding in. *The **Get Happy Jazz Band*** quickly developed a strong, local following and area businesses and festivals hired them to play. The band expanded again adding more instruments: Trumpet (Dr. Barkey Bryant); Wash board. This is when *The **Get Happy Jazz Band*** began perfecting its current, unique sound.



JAZZ PERFORMANCE REEL



GOSPEL PERFORMANCE REEL



The Get Happy Jazz Band "The Happiest Music on Earth!"

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"They are a spirit raising
jazz band!"

The Daily Citizen - Dalton, GA

"You guys are great! It
was an honor to sing &
play with you."

Cody McCarver



"They are incredible and
they put everyone in a
good mood!"

David Karns WRCBtv

"As I listened to their
music God brought joy,
peace and hope to me."

Amy Mann CTN Cleveland

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MEET THE BAND



Kimberly Altenberg

Alto Saxophone

Joined band - May 2020 - present

Instruments: Piano, Organ, Percussion, Alto Saxophone

Kimberly has a broad music background. She began playing the piano at age 9 and has been playing ever since. She studied Piano Performance in college, graduating from Olivet Nazarene University. Kimberly also played percussion instruments in her grade school band. She has also enjoyed singing in various choirs throughout her life. Kimberly currently plays saxophone in her church orchestra. She teaches piano, saxophone and voice at Silverdale Baptist Academy. Besides Get Happy, she also plays for Scenic City Sound, and she played the keyboard at Dollywood for their Christmas musical – Twas the Night Before Christmas.



RubyMarie Altenberg

Tenor, Baritone & Soprano Sax

Joined band - May 2020 - present

Instruments: Piano, Tenor Saxophone, Alto Saxophone, Soprano Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Clarinet

RubyMarie began studying the Piano at the age of 9 and has been playing and taking lessons ever since. She sings in the Silverdale Baptist Academy (SBA) Choir, and the SBA Highschool Praise Band. RubyMarie began playing the saxophone at 11. She plays saxophone in her church orchestra, SBA Marching Band, SBA Concert Band and SBA Jazz Band. She has been selected for All State East TN Jazz Band twice. Besides Get Happy, she also plays for Scenic City Sound.



Jim Altenberg

Soprano & Tenor Saxophone
Clarinet

Joined band - May 2020

Instruments: Tenor Saxophone, Alto Saxophone, Soprano, Baritone Saxophone, Clarinet

Jim began taking saxophone lesson at 9 years of age. He played the Alto saxophone in his grade school band. Jim currently plays saxophone in his church orchestra. Besides Get Happy, he also plays for Scenic City Sound.



Gordon Willis

Trombone

Joined band - June 2020 - present

Instruments: Trombone

Little Gordon started playing the trombone at the age of 9. He played trombone in his grade school band and then graduated to his high school marching band. Gordon spent many years singing in choirs, a gospel quartet and an ensemble with his wife and children. He also volunteered as the choir director in his church for around 40 years. Gordon currently plays the trombone in his church orchestra.



Velma Willis

Banjolele & Tambourine

Joined band - June 2020 - present

Instruments: Piano, Banjolele, Tambourine

Velma started piano lessons around the age of 9 and by 13 she was the pianist at her church in Gulfport, MS. She has been playing the piano ever since. Velma played piano for her husband's (Gordon) quartet, for various choirs and she played piano and sang with their family ensemble. She began playing the banjolele in June of 2021.



Barkey Bryant

Trumpet

Joined band - July 2022 - present

Instruments: Trumpet, Piano, Bass, Drums, Guitar

Dr. Barkey Bryant started playing the piano at age 11 and the trumpet at age 12. He studied trumpet performance at TN Technological University. He received a MM in Jazz Studies from Western IL University, and a MM in Classical Studies, and a DMA in Jazz Performance from University of IL. He has held positions thru the years as a worship leader, band director, music professor as well as teaching private lessons. Barkey has kept busy performing in big bands, symphony orchestras, and various ensembles. He has performed with The All-American College Band at Disney World, an 80s cover band - Edison's Medicine, the New Orleans Jazz Machine, The Dexter Thomas Band, The Tower of Power, and many others. For more information about Barkey go to www.barkeybryant.com

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Doug Warner

Trombone

Joined band – March 2026 – present

Instruments: Trombone, Bass Trombone, Alto Trombone, Euphonium, Bass Trumpet, Piano

Doug began studying piano at 7 and trombone at 9. Dr. Warner holds degrees from UTC (BM) and Cincinnati College – Conservatory of Music (MM & DMA). He is the Director of Applied Studies and Prof. of Music at Lee University. He performed with the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera as principal trombone for 38 years. He was a member of King's Brass for 11 years. He currently plays with the Premier Jazz Orchestra. Doug is in demand as a freelance performer and teacher in the greater Chattanooga area.



Titus Freuler

Washboard

Joined band – May 2025 - present

Instruments: Washboard, Guitar, Mandolin, Lap-Steel Guitar.

Titus developed a love for music at an early age. He picked up a guitar and discovered a whole world of stringed instruments. He has an acute ear for music, and spent many years mixing sound for his church, local events, and concerts. Titus used his sense of rhythm to add washboard and percussion instruments to his arsenal.

The Get Happy Jazz Band plays a variety of music that includes Traditional Jazz, Spirituals, Gospel, Country, et al. Our style of collective improvisation and incredible vocals combine to help us create the “Happiest Music on Earth!”



APPEARANCES



The Get Happy Jazz Band "The Happiest Music on Earth!"

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CONTACT US:

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