

Soft Winds

The History

About 25 years ago Don McCallum formed a trio made up of Susan Cohen on flute, his granddaughter Leila Garvie on clarinet, and himself on computer.

The group was expanded with Ron Gilbertson joining them on clarinet and flute. Feeling the need for more expansion Russ Patterson and Brian Brick were added to the group, Russ on bass clarinet, and Brian on piano, and Don switched to clarinet. About this time the group decided to call itself the Soft Winds, and to use Benny Goodman's tune of the same name as its theme song.

Still expanding Ed Thompson joined the group on clarinet and flute, and brought in a friend Stan Segel to play clarinet. With Ed's winter activities taking him away for the winter Stan invited Sue Moore to join us to fill in however she enjoyed the atmosphere so much that she was asked to stay and play clarinets and flute.

With the sad passing of Russ and Ron the group took a short recess. Jason Paas who had joined Softwinds to replace Russ and play the bass parts on Bassoon initiated the reforming of the group and Softwinds had yet another personnel change with only one original participant Don McCallum who retired from playing but agreed to continue arranging for the group.

The group now consists of Ed Thompson on lead clarinet Stan Segal and Sue Moore on Clarinet, Annabel Mills on Flute, Maurice Gillham on Keyboard, Dave Malden on bass and Kent Smith playing trombone.