

# OPINION

## KM native Calvin Edwards making it big in jazz in Japan



Calvin Edwards

Growing up in the Compact Community near Kings Mountain in the 1960s, Calvin Edwards always had a guitar in his hand and a song on his lips.

Music was in his blood - his father, Hiawatha Edwards being a very popular gospel singer and musician in this area for many years.

Calvin, a 1974 graduate of Kings Mountain High School and a frequent winner of Kiwanis Club Talent Shows there, just knew that someday he would hit it big in music.

Now 41, he is the leader of the very popular "Calvin Edwards Jazz Quartet," which is making it big in Japan and other Asian countries. He recently released a new CD entitled "So What, Don't Forget" on Venus Records, and it is available through his website at <http://www.monmouth.com>.

Edwards, home for several weeks to visit with his wife, Tammy; son, Caleb; daughter, Chasity; and parents, Mary and Hiawatha Edwards, will perform at the Charlotte Jazz Society Festival Saturday, September 19 from 4-11 p.m. at First Union Plaza, 301 South Tryon Street, Charlotte. The show is sponsored by the Charlotte Jazz Society, WCCJ (FM 92.7) and First Union. Admission is \$10 for non-members and \$5 for members of the Charlotte Jazz Society.

Like most youngsters, Calvin said he was into singing pop and rock around the house, but like so many other musicians he got his professional start in gospel music. He toured with the world famous Five Blind Boys of Alabama before forming his own jazz group.

"Music runs in my family," Edwards recalls when thinking of his younger days here. "I sang in the chorus at Kings Mountain High School. Myrtle McClure was my teacher and she was very influential in my music. She was always backing my music."

"My father would play the guitar and sing Nat King Cole and some of the great jazz artists, and he's a musician himself. So it's in my blood, and I've always known that I would do something. We've always made money doing music - not just for hobbies but for keeping ourselves together - and now I'm getting to see some parts of the world that some people never get to see."

Calvin, the oldest of the Edwards children, introduced most of his siblings to music. His brother, Jet, now owns a recording studio and music school in Tokyo and had his own band, The Jet Edwards Band, before moving there. Their brother, Todd, played in that band.



**Gary Stewart**  
Editor

The Calvin Edwards Band is very popular in Japan, where jazz is the current choice over pop, rock and rap. Calvin has also toured extensively in Hong Kong, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and other Asian countries.

"I switched to jazz around 1980 and lived and performed in California for 10 years," Edwards recalled. "I decided the other music was too hard for me - R&B and stuff like that. I didn't really like rap. I moved back to Kings Mountain before moving to Tokyo. My wife and children are still here so it's very important that I come home about every three months."

Edwards says his time at home is usually spent relaxing and being a father, but he did agree to do the Charlotte show this month to promote jazz in this region. He plans to return to Tokyo for a big jazz festival on September 28.

"Jazz is really big in Japan right now," he said. "There's a little R&B and rock, but it's mostly classical and jazz."

Edwards encourages budding musicians to consider jazz because, unlike R&B, country, rock and rap, it lasts a lifetime. "I would advise any kids that want to do music to continue to do it and not let anyone stop them. But choose the type of music that will last a long time."

"In today's pop and rap, music lasts one year and it's finished," he said. "If you notice people are still playing songs like 'So What' by Miles Davis, and that's been 30 or 40 years ago."

"Jazz songs last a long time. I wanted to create music that would last a long time. People are still playing Ella Fitzgerald after 40 years."

Edwards has some other valuable advice for young people. "Don't drink, don't smoke, and stay away from drugs. That's the key."

And, he also advises them to travel as much as they can - especially abroad. The world may seem big, but it's really not, he said, because almost everywhere he's gone to perform he's met people from Kings Mountain.

### SIDEWALK SURVEY

#### What is your favorite season of the year?



**Barbara Goodwin**  
Homemaker

Spring. It's cooler and all the flowers and trees are in bloom.



**Linda Ramsey**  
National Military Park

I like them all, but I prefer spring because spring represents hope for a new year.



**Drew Dahl**  
Specialized Textiles

Spring because of planting time and it's a beautiful season.



**Frances Tolley**

Spring. The weather is more comfortable, we can get outside and it's right after winter.



**Pauline Smith**  
homemaker

Spring. It's a more pleasant and peaceful time of the year.

### Your Right To Say It

#### All high school functions should be free of smoking

To the editor:

I am a senior at Kings Mountain High School. I would like to express my concerns about smoking.

It is very sad to see more and more of my friends smoking. Also, to see more and more kids walking from the middle school lighting up cigarettes after school is over, when they aren't old enough to even buy them.

For two years I have sat in the stands with the band, at football games, trying to play my instrument while people around me were smoking away. From all that we have learned about smoking and secondhand smoke, I cannot believe we still allow this in schools.

My mother and my best friend have asthma and even outdoors smoking affects them greatly. We now have places of all kinds that are smoke free. The Knights Castle in Charlotte is smoke free and it is very nice to be able to watch a baseball game without having to breathe smoke.

I propose that our schools in Kings Mountain be made smoke-free. All school functions, including football games, should be made smoke-free. I plan to campaign to all state and local school officials and representatives in Congress. This is my promise to save the children. Smoke-free!

Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Amanda Grace Johnsonbaugh  
Kings Mountain

#### More blacks needed in city government

To the editor:

Here I come again with my ideas for a better future for Kings Mountain.

WE need and must have more Black men and women in our police department. Up into the high power of law and order.

White people are not the most intelligent people on planet earth. It depends on love, caring and loyalty to what one thinks should happen to make things better for all people.

I hope that in the next election more Black men and women would post their names to be elected into city management.

Loyal to justice,

Henry Hodges  
Kings Mountain

### Legal Notices

#### ADMINISTRATOR -- EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified on the 13 day of August, 1998, as Executrix of the Estate of JAMES ORAN JOLLEY, deceased, late of Cleveland County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned LINDA OLIVER MOSS, Executrix on or before the 20 day of November, 1998, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment.

This the 20 day of August, 1998  
Linda Oliver Moss

Estate of: James Oran Jolley  
Address: 430 El Bethel Rd.  
Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086  
KMH 1623 (KMH 8:20, 8:27, 9:3, 9:10)

#### NORTH CAROLINA, CLEVELAND COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of: ELOISE WILSON  
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE COURT ADMINISTRATIX NOTICE

Having qualified on the 14 day of August, 1998, as Administratrix of the Estate of ELOISE WILSON, deceased, late of Cleveland County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the

decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned Administratrix on or before the 20 day of November, 1998, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment.

This the 20 day of August, 1998  
Brenda Wilson, Adm.

302 Ebenezer Road  
Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
E. Scott Cloninger  
CLONINGER & NEISLER  
115 West Mountain Street  
Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
KMH 1622 (KMH 8:20, 8:27, 9:3, 9:10)

#### ADMINISTRATOR -- EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified on the 15 day of May, 1998, as Executor of the Estate of DERETHA C. BIBBS, deceased, late of Gaston County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned Mark Lenzie Bibbs, Executor on or before the 10 day of December, 1998, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment.

This the 10 day of September, 1998  
Mark Lenzie Bibbs  
Estate of: c/o Fitch and Associates  
615 E. Nash St.  
Wilson, N.C. 27893

#### KMH 1634 (KMH 9:10, 9:17, 9:24, 10:1)

#### PERSONAL PROPERTY

On Wednesday the 23rd of September 1998 at exactly 12:00 noon, family storage center will sell various items of personal property pursuant to the assertion of a lien for rental at its self-storage facility. The sale of personal property will take place at the office of family storage center, 715 York Rd., Kings Mountain, N.C.

102 - Victor Ballard  
124 - 126 Jerry Crotts  
34 - Rachel Greene  
19 - Michael Hoffman  
97 - Robert Huchison  
112 - Chris Johnson  
139 - Louise Leach  
KMH 1631 (KMH 9:10, 9:17)

#### INVITATION TO BIDS

A pre-bid will be held at the city of Kings Mountain, at Kings Mountain City Hall, 101 W. Gold Street, in the council chambers at 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 8, 1998.

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Kings Mountain, at Kings Mountain City Hall, 101 W. Gold Street, in the council chambers until 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 15, 1998, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read for the following:

#### BETHLEHEM ESTATES GAS PROJECT &

A pre-bid will be held at the city of Kings Mountain, at Kings Mountain City

Hall, 101 W. Gold Street, in the council chambers at 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 8, 1998.

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Kings Mountain, at Kings Mountain City Hall, 101 W. Gold Street, in the council chambers until 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 15, 1998, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read for the following:

#### COUNTRY CREEK GAS PROJECT

Specifications may be obtained at the office of Cathy Herring, Purchasing Agent, 101 W. Gold St., during regular office hours (8:00 - 5:00), Monday thru Friday.

Cash, Certified check, cashier's check, or a bid bond by a licensed surety in North Carolina, as provided by N.C. statutes 143-129, in the amount of 5% of the bid must accompany each bid. This deposit shall be made payable to the City of Kings Mountain.

Said deposit shall be retained if the successful bidder fails to execute the contract within ten days after the award or fails to give satisfactory surety as required herein.

The City of Kings Mountain reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or part, such proposals as appear in its judgement to be in the best interest of the City.

This date: 9/1/98  
By: Cathy Herring, Purchasing Agent  
KMH 1632 (KMH 9:10)