

UPTOWN DRIFTERS

The Uptown Drifters emerged on the North Texas music scene in 2012. Drawing on a common love of swing music, these musicians have excited crowds with their “feel good” music that takes its listeners on a fun journey through multiple genres and eras of Americana music.

Using a strong anchoring rhythm to provide a platform for some of the area’s most talented soloists, this flowing beat begs the dancer in all of us to join in. Two step to country, lindy hop to big band or groove to New Orleans dixieland. The band’s beginning arose almost out of necessity. After crossing paths a month earlier, band manager Jim Turner asked lead fiddler Brook Wallace Deaton to fill in for a gig in Arlington. The show quickly morphed from Texas Country to Country Swing. Everyone agreed that this needed to happen again. Soon after, Brook suggested adding saxophonist Jon Stutler.



Jim Turner

SWING JAZZ & WESTERN SWING



photo credit: Melissa Arnold/Texas Red Productions

This trio immediately began making magic. The final addition of Nathan Phelps on the upright bass filled out what would become the nucleus of the band. The popularity of The Uptown Drifters extends beyond the listener as the band has become a very popular group for other area musicians when an expanded version of the band is needed. This flexibility becomes evident by the addition of drums, piano and steel guitar for a night of Western Swing. Add a horn section and piano, and you have an enjoyable evening of vintage swing jazz. The group, along with their most recent CD “Recollections In Swing”, were both nominated by the Association of Western Artists for 2016’s Western Swing Group of the Year and Album of the Year.

Members:

Jim Turner – vocals, guitar | **Jon Stutler** – vocals, sax, clarinet | **Brooke Wallace Deaton**– fiddle |

Nathan Phelps – bass | **Josh Hanlon** - piano

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