

T R A D I T I O N A L

S E R I E S

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

OUR ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH PROGRAM

DONNA BYRNE,
vocals

DAVE McKENNA,
piano

SPONSORED BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
AND THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
LIBRARY OF TRADITIONAL JAZZ

8 PM MONDAY
FEBRUARY 19, 1996
STRAFFORD ROOM
MEMORIAL UNION BUILDING
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE ARTISTS

DONNA BYRNE & DAVE McKENNA

If necessity is the mother of invention, then coincidence may be the occasional arbiter of apparent intention. Although to the innocent our series may appear neatly planned and comfortably scheduled, the actual process is sometimes hair-raising, involving the availability of artists (some of whom are hard to locate), access to the hall (or more recently, halls!), the relationship to the University calendar at large, etc. Thus as we go on to note two excellent reasons for having engaged these specific artists on this particular date we confess that this lofty level of appropriateness is pure accident.

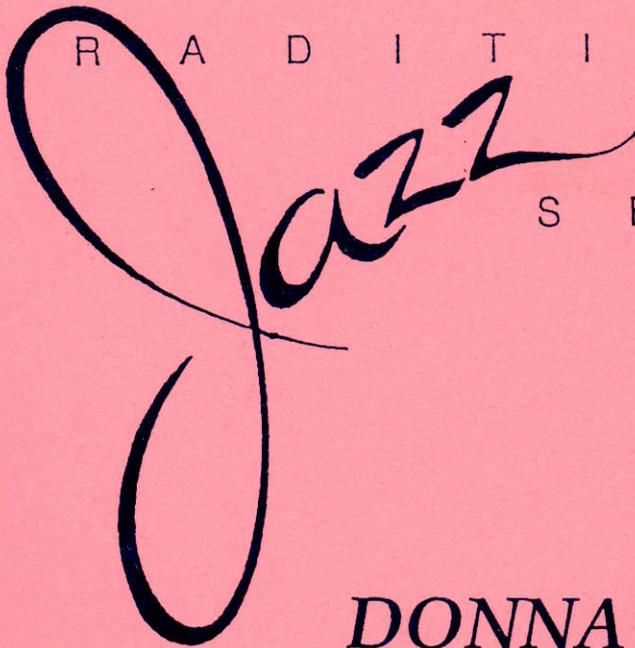
First, Donna and Dave individually were great personal favorites of Dorothy Prescott who initiated this series in 1979 and whose generous bequest continues to underwrite it. Dot liked jazz in small rooms; (she would not have been enthusiastic about the Johnson Theatre!). It is therefore most fitting that as we finally return to the more intimate atmosphere of the Strafford Room which Dot enjoyed - even with the old folding metal chairs! - Donna and Dave be the celebrants.

Second, the truly poignant coincidence is that Dot passed away eight years ago yesterday, and if she were to have dictated a remembrance, this program could well have been it; clearly none of us could have planned anything better.

What makes a singer of so-called "popular" songs into a jazz performer? Perhaps a question not easy to answer to everyone's satisfaction, but certainly some purely musical happenings take place beyond the delineation of text - inflections, imaginative departures from the original melody, improvisation, and above all, swing. The latter quality is possibly unsusceptible to precise description but is analogous to the infamous area where a Supreme Court justice said that although he could not define it he knew it when he saw it. Donna Byrne's reputation in the jazz world grows almost daily. Since her last appearance in this series she has expanded her sphere of operations to New York's *Blue Note* (described at length in the *Boston Globe*) and *Tavern-on-the-Green*, been voted the "Best of Boston" by *Boston Magazine*, been signed by Daring Records, and received high praise from Tony Bennett (who does know!).

It is no exaggeration to assert that Dave McKenna is a legendary figure in the world of solo pianism. Although he describes himself as "just a tune player," what happens to the tunes as he explores their individual potential melodically, harmonically, and rhythmically as well as linkages through titles - the words again! - is provocative, revelatory, and the classiest kind of fun. Especially, listen to that left hand - Bob Blumenthal in the *Globe* recently spent a whole paragraph describing it. And another

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DONNA and DAVE

healthy sign of progress; Dave's latest Concord CD (*Easy Street*) was praised in the newsletter of the prestigious Institute for Studies in American Music at Brooklyn College. (Historical note: Dave gave the very first concert in this series in the fall of 1979, 110 events ago!)

In addition to the things noted above it is worth noting that this evening of unique dual artistry in reference to the rich, raw material of the American song tradition takes place within the octave of Valentine's Day - but that too is a coincidence, so draw no conclusions, relax but stay alert, join our family, witness the chemistry, and rejoice!

*Tape recorders and cameras are not permitted due to contractual arrangements.
Your cooperation is requested.*

THE SERIES

The UNH Traditional Jazz Series began in 1979. It promotes the enjoyment and understanding of the art through concerts featuring musicians of regional, national, and international prominence. The program represents a unique endeavor to expand interest and honor outstanding talent and achievement.

Musicians wishing to do so are encouraged to offer their recordings for sale or mail order during intermission; a brief announcement may be made. The sponsors have no financial interest in such sales beyond offering a courtesy service to the artists and the public.

Program Notes – Paul Verrette
Production – David Seiler

THE SCHEDULE

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| September 18 | Ed Polcer's Midtown Jazz |
| October 16 | Barry Harris, piano |
| November 13 | Plunger Summit: Snooky Young,
Al Grey, Clark Terry |
| January 29 | New Black Eagle Jazz Band |
| February 19 | Donna Byrne & Dave McKenna |
| April 8 | Harry Allen & Milt Hinton |
| May 6 | Buddy DeFranco Quintet |