

University of New Hampshire



*Beginning our Third Decade!*

Our One Hundred Thirty-Fourth Program  
1999-2000

***THE REAL HERB POMEROY***  
***QUINTET***

***featuring John La Porta***

Sponsored by the Department of Music and the New Hampshire  
Library of Traditional Jazz

8 p.m. Monday, September 13, 1999 Johnson Theatre  
Paul Creative Arts Center, Durham, NH

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## THE ARTISTS

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### ♦ *The Real Herb Pomeroy Quintet* ♦

It is all too easy to find excuses to philosophize on the nature and condition of jazz, etc., and the beginning of the third decade of our series is an all-too-tempting opportunity, but the circumstances if not an attack of humility suggest an alternative strategy. After all, the ultimate answer to questions on every level are in the sounds themselves, and are there any two people on the planet who have given more daily attention to these provocative phenomena, both practically and idealistically for well over a half century than Herb Pomeroy and John La Porta?

Herb (b.1930) and John (b. 1920) have had abundantly rich lives in the unpredictable world of jazz, much of it shared in their many decades on the Berklee faculty. Their professional experiences are wide-ranging: Herb is an acclaimed expert on details of the Ellington idiom, having had early insight into the variety of jazz expression through work in the orchestras of Lionel Hampton and Stan Kenton: his own big band was, for years, a most worthy reason for probing the intricacies of Boston traffic; the scope of his musical relationship embraces appearances with Gunther Schuller and with the Boston Pops; finally, he remains one of the most sought-after educators and clinicians internationally.

As we noted when he performed here with Dick Johnson a few years ago, John's list of accomplishments would require a multi-page supplement; we repeat our capsulized version: two degrees from Manhattan School of Music, private study with classical composers Ernest Toch and Alexei Haieff, and jazz artist Lennie Tristano; performances under conductor Leopold Stokowski and Leonard Bernstein; recordings with Woody Herman (including Stravinsky's Ebony Concerto), Lester Young, Charlie Parker, Charlie Mingus, and numerous others; author of several educational texts.

Herb and John have witnessed – and often been part of – numerous changes in the evolution of jazz, its dialects, value system, and stature. For example, the educational institutionalization of jazz, while yielding dignity and prestige to the idiom, runs the risk of the depersonalization which can follow codification (the dictionary definitions of “academic” are not all positive!). However, Herb and John have never lost their sense of the primacy of individual voice, no matter what the style. Now in the independence (if not true leisure!) of “retirement”, their instrumental voices speak to us with a refreshing quality reflecting musical lives lived with the highest standards, the utmost of unselfish integrity, and undying imagination.

Paul Schmeling, John Repucci, and Artie Cabral are Herb's first-choice rhythm section; need one say more?! In fact, they played here in Herb's big band in 1988; they swing definitively under all circumstances.



TRADITIONAL  
**Jazz**  
SERIES

## ***The Real Herb Pomeroy Quintet***

Herb Pomeroy, trumpet & flugelhorn – John La Porta,  
reeds – Paul Schmeling, piano – Artie Cabral, drums –  
John Repucci, bass

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Jazz (like classical music) can reveal a multitude of expressive and emotional states, from the frivolous to the profound. Even at its most complexly absorbing it retains its vernacular roots and spontaneous immediacy, while at the same time its practitioners, in Albert Murray's words, engage in "extension, elaboration, and refinement." Herb Pomeroy, John La Porta, with their colleagues, are prime examples of the musical and human values that have resulted in jazz and its traditions being taken seriously as a major art form. We welcome them – and owe them!

NOTE: Herb Pomeroy plays widely in numerous configurations, but my colleague Dave Seiler informed me this is Herb's "real" quintet. Hmm... this has some possible implications which it was thought best to explore no further!

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*Tape recorders and cameras are not permitted due to contractual arrangements. Please turn off beepers and watch alarms. Your cooperation is requested.*

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## THE SERIES

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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**

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### 1999-2000 SCHEDULE

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- September 13:** The Real Herb Pomeroy Quintet, featuring John La Porta  
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**October 25:** "The Men They Will Become"; Eli Newberger, Jimmy Mazzy, & Butch Thompson  
♦  
**November 22:** The Prodigious Kenny Werner  
♦  
**January 24:** A Tribute to Red Norvo; Ed Saindon, Howard Alden, & Steve Novosel  
♦  
**February 28:** Fabulous Fiddle Fest: Three Generations; Claude Williams, Billy Contreras, & Lesa Terry  
♦  
**April 10:** "Do Nothing 'Til You Hear From Us"; Buddy DeFranco, Dave McKenna, & Joe Cohn  
♦  
**May 1:** Benny Powell and Jane Jarvis
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### OTHER SPECIAL JAZZ PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

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- October 2:** *Family Weekend Concert, Seacoast Big Band, Dave Seiler, directing. This night of swing music includes dancing and refreshments. Granite State Room, Memorial Union Building.*  
♦  
**January 18:** *Harry Jones Memorial Education Fund Concert, Seacoast Big Band, Dave Seiler, directing, with special, surprise guest artist! Proceeds to assist senior high school students who will major in music. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, PCAC.*  
♦  
**March 12:** *Gala Jazz Concert, Dr. Clark Terry, trumpet and flugel horn; Bud Shank, alto sax artist; with Mark Elf, guitar; Chris Neville, piano; UNH Jazz Band, Dave Seiler, director. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.*

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For tickets call (603)862-2290