



Our One Hundred Fifty-Second Program  
2001-2002

# THE MUSIC OF VINTAGE MANHATTAN

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

8 p.m. Monday, April 8, 2002  
Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, Durham, NH

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## THE ARTISTS

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### **Peter Ecklund, Ken Peplowski, Frank Vignola, Murray Wall**

The world may be a scary place, but in both the worst and best of times it is not without variety, surprise, and fresh experiential opportunity. Consider the following: In July of this year the University of Connecticut will host the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Brass Festival of the *Historic Brass Society*. Titles of presentations include "A Newly Discovered Horn Concerto", "Brass Chamber Works of Jean Sibelius", and "Is Left Right? A Study of Right Hand Vienna Horns". Academic esoterica, one might conclude, an opinion reinforced by the institutional identifications of the presenters. However, close scrutiny of the complete list reveals "The Early European Tours of Louis Armstrong", the presenter being one Peter Ecklund, his affiliation given as *The Orphan Newsboys*, which further research reveals to be a quartet organized with guitarist Marty Grosz (and much resembling tonight's aggregation.)

This may not be an apocalyptic occurrence, but it does indicate something about the expansion of sensitivity to jazz accomplishments, as well as the salutary potential of the broadening conversation among musicians of several serious orientations both without and within the jazz community.

Perhaps Peter's proclivities in this direction emanate from the fact that he first played jazz while an undergraduate at Yale (!). Subsequently he taught social studies in the public schools, helped found the *Galvanized Jazz Band*, and then embraced music as a full-time career in 1972. Said career has itself been full of "variety, surprise, and opportunity"; he has worked with an extremely wide range of jazz and popular artists, among them Woody Allen, Vince Giordano's *Nighthawks*, Garrison Keillor, Bonnie Raitt, and Leon Redbone. His trumpet and cornet sound can be heard in Ken Burns's documentaries on the *Civil War*, *Baseball*, and the *American West*, as well as several films such as *Eight Men Out* and *Fried Green Tomatoes*. He has also published transcriptions of solos by Louis Armstrong and Bix Beiderbecke. Peter appears on over 35 CDs and is indeed a model of the versatility which modern professionalism often requires.

Such is also the condition of Ken Peplowski. A native of Cleveland he first went on the road with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra under Buddy Morrow. He soon met Sonny Stitt and even though their stylistic tendencies diverged somewhat, Ken became his pupil, thus increasing his artistic choices. Since settling in New York he has found himself in a diversity of musical settings, from traditional groups through big bands and symphony orchestras to avant garde ensembles. His colleagues have included George Shearing and Dick Hyman, Rosemary Clooney and Peggy Lee, Howard Alden and Bucky Pizzarelli, Ruby Braff and Warren Vaché, and on and on. That he has been compared to both Benny Goodman and Buddy De Franco only attests to his originality.

In embracing both guitar and banjo Frank Vignola honors an historical reality frequently snubbed by his peers of less spacious outlook. He performs weekly with the venerable Les Paul, and has been at the forefront of the revival of interest in Django Reinhardt. And Murray Wall brought his foundational artistry to Manhattan island from a larger ocean-bounded expanse called Australia some thirty years ago, much to the ensuing gratification of the army of musicians for whom he has generated rhythmic energy over the decades.

This evening's program will renew our sense of the timelessness of this central tradition, only made inexhaustibly fresh through the talent, imagination, and commitment of such artists as Peter, Ken, Frank, and Murray. Spring is here!



TRADITIONAL  
**jazz**  
SERIES

PETER ECKLUND—CORNET  
KEN DEPLOWSKI—CLARINET & TENOR SAX  
FRANK VIGNOLA—GUITAR & BANJO  
MURRAY WALL—STRING BASS

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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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### 2001-2002 SCHEDULE

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- September 17:** Ninth Decade Encounter—Hank Visits Clark  
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- October 22:** Benny Golson Marches On  
♦
- November 19:** Plenty of Horn: Byron Stripling  
♦
- January 28:** The Intimate Dimension: Fred Haas Trio  
♦
- March 4:** Out of the Airwaves & Into Our Hearts: Marian McPartland  
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- April 8:** Vintage Manhattan: Peter Ecklund

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### OTHER SPECIAL JAZZ PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

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- November 3:** *Family Weekend Concert, UNH JAZZ BAND and COMBOS, Dave Seiler, directing: UNH JAZZ SINGERS, Bill Kempster, directing. Granite State Room, Memorial Union Building, UNH.*  
♦
- January 22:** *Harry Jones Memorial Concert: Basie alumnus FRANK WESS returns to share his eloquent tenor sax and copious library with the Seacoast Big Band, Dave Seiler, directing. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.*  
♦
- March 24:** *Gala Jazz Concert, DR. CLARK TERRY, trumpet and flugelhorn with legendary jazz bassist, RAY BROWN and the UNH JAZZ BAND, Dave Seiler, directing. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.*

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*For tickets call (603)862-2290*