



Our Twenty-seventh Season

Our One Hundred Seventy-sixth Program
2005-2006

**INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT:
GEORGE ROBERT
&**

THE MULGREW MILLER TRIO

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

8 p.m. Monday, April 3, 2006
Johnson Theatre, Paul Creaative Arts Center, Durham, NH

THE ARTISTS

George Robert and the Mulgrew Miller Trio

Given the current state of international communication, not to mention such parallel phenomena as outsourcing and foreign ownership of American resources, it should be no source of wonder that jazz has been one of our more successful exports (if with little effect on our balance of payments!). Most of us are aware of the European adulation quickly lavished on such personages as Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington, as well as of the more comfortable domicile acquired on that continent by a number of African-American musicians during the decades of American segregation. And of course there are the sometimes revelatory anecdotes such as Benny Goodman jamming with an Asian potentate, and Milt Hinton encountering a member of a local Lester Young club in Moscow! Yet it may be enlightening for some of us to learn that jazz elements were influencing several European classical composers prior to 1920, thus well before most Americans had ever heard a jazz recording; moreover, the first successful writing about jazz as serious musical art emanated from abroad. Jazz was in fact threatening to classically trained American musicians who were attempting to establish themselves in an early 20th century culture dominated by European values; however, the native inheritors of those values were secure enough in their traditions to have a superior perspective on the true substance of this new idiom from across the sea.

Thus we should not be surprised to find that jazz currently has considerable status within European cultural institutions, including government support for some performing groups, and programs within academia. Bringing it close to home, many will recall that trumpeter Stjepko Gut who visits our campus regularly with Clark Terry teaches at the University of Graz in Austria, and our guest this evening, George Robert, is Director of the National Jazz Conservatory in Berne, Switzerland.

George was born in Geneva in 1960, and following a tradition for reed players going back even to the beginnings of New Orleans jazz, he began his musical life with the study of classical clarinet. He came to the US in 1980 and studied composition and arranging at Berklee; later he earned a Master's degree at the Manhattan School. He worked with numerous groups in this country, including Phil Woods's big band, a trio with Cedar Walton, Buster Williams, and Billy Higgins, and Clark Terry who introduced him to UNH at the Jazz Festival last year when he was featured in the memorial tribute to James Williams who had been on the Berklee faculty when George was a student there.

Like George himself, the three artists comprising Mulgrew Miller's trio represent copious and collegial jazz professionalism of the highest order. Their comprehensive collective experience is staggering; if we attempted a list of the performers with whom each of them has collaborated we would need countless more pages. A few choice items, with no particular rationale, must suffice: Mulgrew's first true inspiration was seeing Oscar Peterson on television; he studied at Memphis State (where he was influenced by James Williams), and later in Boston, where he had some lessons with Madame Chaloff, Serge's quite famous mother; early in his career he worked with Mercer Ellington, and later with Art Blakey; he has had a long pianistic relationship with Kenny Barron.

Through a fortuitous coincidence of scheduling Rufus Reid was on this stage just three weeks ago at the Clark Terry/UNH Jazz Festival, as well as with Bob Mintzer last year; beyond his vast amount of playing, he taught at William Paterson University for twenty years where he was succeeded as Director of Jazz Studies by the late James Williams. Billy Hart's long career began at the famous Howard Theater in Washington; he has teaching affiliations with Oberlin, Western Michigan University, and the New England Conservatory, and his 400 albums (just like Mulgrew!) speak to the rest of his activity.

We are honored (and fortunate) to have these four gentlemen gathered together from so many climes. Spring is here.



GEORGE ROBERT, SAXOPHONE
MULGREW MILLER, PIANO
RUFUS REID, BASS
BILLY HART, DRUMS

We respectfully dedicate this concert to the memory of Paul Lyons of South Hampton, NH, the founding president of the Seacoast Jazz Society, who passed away one month ago today, and whose loyal support was representative of so many listeners who unselfishly assist in making the art endure.

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

THE SERIES

The UNH Traditional Jazz Series began in 1979 through the imaginative vision and generous commitment of the late Dorothy C. Prescott. 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

2005-2006 SCHEDULE

- September 19: At Least One More Time: Ray Smith's Paramount Jazz Band
♦
October 17: Generational Concurrence: Frank Wess and Terell Stafford
♦
November 21: A Feast of Bones: George Masso and Jeff Galindo
♦
January 30: Third Annual Tommy Gallant Scholarship Concert:
The Hot Club of Portland: Django Reinhardt Almost in Person
♦
February 20: The Wisdom of Youth: Geoff Keezer Trio
♦
April 3: International Incident: George Robert and the Mulgrew Miller Trio

OTHER SPECIAL JAZZ PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

- October 22: *Family Weekend Concert, UNH JAZZ BAND and COMBOS, Dave Seiler and Erika Svanoe, directing. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.*
♦
December 14: *Clark Terry 85th Birthday Bash. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.*
♦
January 17: *Harry Jones Memorial Concert: Celebrating Paul Broadnax's 80th Birthday; Seacoast Big Band, Dave Seiler, directing. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.*
♦
January 20: *Faculty Jazz Sextet: Jared Sims and David Seiler, woodwinds; Mark Shilansky, piano; David Newsam, guitar; John Hunter, bass; Les Harris, Jr., drums. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.*
♦
March 12: *Gala Jazz Concert, DR. CLARK TERRY, trumpet and flugelhorn 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