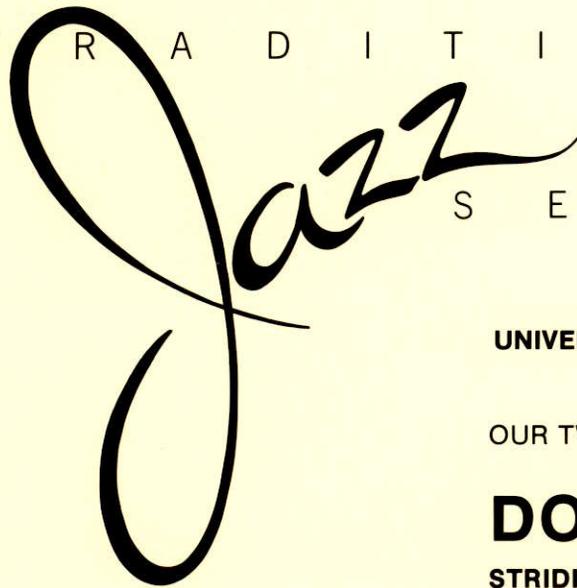


T R A D I T I O N A L



S E R I E S

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

OUR TWENTY-FIRST PROGRAM

DON EWELL

STRIDING AT THE PIANO

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

8 PM MONDAY
MARCH 14, 1983
STRAFFORD ROOM
MEMORIAL UNION
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE ARTIST

In all the realms of the wide world of musical performance a special quality attaches to the solo pianist, that uniquely gifted individual who has the imagination, experience, and technical resources to sustain an entire program by himself. This is particularly true in improvisatory jazz, with its peculiar rhythmical demands and subtleties above and beyond the melodic, harmonic, and textural requirements which themselves can occupy two hands. Thus far this series has been blessed with such prime exemplars of the art as Dave McKenna, Dick Wellstood, Jack Bumer, and Mike Markaverich, and tonight in a rare New England appearance we are proud to have Don Ewell expand and enrich that list.

Don was born in Baltimore in 1916, received classical training as a youngster and later studied composition at the Peabody Conservatory. Soon, however, the recordings of Joe Sullivan and Fats Waller attracted him to other things, and in his own words, "Then I discovered Earl Hines and I was hooked." He first came into prominence when immediately after his discharge from the army in 1946 he joined Bunk Johnson's New Orleans band in New York, becoming the only white musician to play regularly in that group. Highly regarded as an accompanist and combo player, he has performed and made over 100 recordings with numerous artists ranging from Kid Ory and Sidney Bechet to Bobby Hackett and Lester Young, with the Dukes of Dixieland in between. Perhaps his closest relationship was his eight-year association with Jack Teagarden, including the latter's final performance.

In 1967, New York was the site of some memorable duets between Don and the legendary Willie (the Lion) Smith. Although after that time he toured widely in Europe, Australia, and the Far East, including concerts at Hiroshima, he was not lured to the northeast again from his home in Florida until 18 months ago when Dick Wellstood told him simply, "You should be heard." (Obviously, we agree.)

In an interview with John S. Wilson of the *New York Times* on that occasion, Don referred to his style as follows; "A lot of jazz pianists look down on the old classic way of playing. I'm not a reactionary, but I don't want to go too far out on a limb. I like the trunk of the tree." So do we, but we are delighted to have another one of the branches now extend to UNH. Welcome and thanks, Don Ewell.

T R A D I T I O N A L

Jazz

S E R I E S

DON EWELL

THE PROGRAM

In keeping with the spontaneity of traditional jazz, Mr. Ewell will announce his own selections.

THE SERIES

The UNH Traditional Jazz Series, now in its fourth year, promotes the enjoyment and understanding of the art through concerts including musicians of regional, national, and international prominence. The program is based on the fundamental convictions that there are no age barriers in the performance and appreciation of this idiom, and that its joyousness and creativity are ever-renewable. Our combined sponsorship unites students, faculty, and continually devoted enthusiasts in a unique endeavor to expand interest, and honor outstanding talent and achievement.

Many of the artists presented in our series are available only on private recordings not readily found in stores. For the benefit of the public, 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.

Cameras and tape recorders are not permitted. Your cooperation is requested. Films or recordings by the sponsors are for the benefit of students, who may inquire about their availability at the Dimond Library.

Program Notes — Paul Verrette
Production — Dave Seiler

COMING EVENTS

April 25 Jimmy Mazzy's Jam Session: Jimmy Mazzy, banjo and vocals, Scott Philbrick, cornet, Bob Pilsbury, piano, Hank Hankinson, bass, and Ike Roberts, alto sax