TRADITIONAL JAZZ SERIES
UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OUR ONE HUNDREDTH AND SIXTH PROGRAM

ED POLCER'S MIDTOWN JAZZ

ED POLCER – Cornet
HARRY ALLEN – Reeds
TOM ARTIN – Trombone
MARK SHANE – Piano
FRANK TATE – Bass
JOE ASCIONE – Drums

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

8 PM MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 18, 1995
JOHNSON THEATRE
PAUL CREATIVE ARTS CENTER
We begin our 17th season with a group which has the unique distinction of being the only one whose performances on this series have been forced into three separate buildings in two separate communities. However, barring an inaugural hurricane we should not face the adverse weather conditions which affected their appearance last February, and the centrality of their musical message will provide an appropriate reference point for the entire year. (It also affords an excuse for this writer to reuse a couple of last year's paragraphs!)

Just a half-century ago jazz was going through a period of ferment with an emotional atmosphere comparable to contemporary Washington; scrutiny of journals like *Down Beat* and *Metronome* reveals a polemical tone among self-appointed critics that would be appropriate to today's talk shows, and matters of individual aesthetic judgement were overlaid with the rhetoric of infinite value. The traditionalists and the modernists were held to have no common ground, a fallacy as we know now and the musicians knew then, but while the conflict raged in the press, jazz's vital connection with the mainstream of popular music was eroded by a number of external factors and soon was replaced by rock and roll. The result is that most of the young now view the jazz legacy as being as remote from their contemporary experience as Bach and Beethoven, or at least their grandparents - after all, Charlie Parker would have turned 75 this year, and Louis Armstrong 95 or thereabouts.

One of the major battlegrounds (or fields of play, depending on the openness of your mind) was the array of small jazz clubs that proliferated around New York's 52nd Street, Greenwich Village, and of course, Harlem. (Portsmouth's *Press Room* is a welcome reincarnation!) These fertile resources are gone now, having been destroyed by progress, but one person who has developed a good portion of his life to preserving both the physical letter and artistic spirit of this rich piece of our history is Ed Polcer, Princeton '58, cornetist, former owner of *Eddie Condon's*, and indefatigable leader of groups carrying the classic dialect of midtown Manhattan jazz to tens of thousands around the world. He played at Princess Grace's wedding in Monaco and at a ball in President Clinton's White House; he has performed with Benny Goodman, and for George Foreman; he has competed in the New York City Marathon. What more can be expected of oneself, or of life?
Collectively, the members of Ed's entourage have probably played with every mainstream practitioner possible within the practical limits of their life spans - some of it on this very series, since they have all been here previously in various configurations; they are warmly welcomed back, and not for the last time.

This is music that speaks across the generations, honors diversity, makes feet tap, ears perk, hearts warm, and minds recognize that there is more in the human condition that unites than divides, if only we let it. Let's do it.

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

September 8   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