PLUNGER SUMMIT

SNOOKY YOUNG
AL GREY
AND
PROF. CLARK TERRY

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

8 PM MONDAY
NOVEMBER 13, 1995
PORTSMOUTH MUSIC HALL
PORTSMOUTH, NH

The UNH Traditional Jazz Series thanks the Portsmouth Music Hall for its cooperation in presenting this event.
THE ARTISTS

PLUNGER SUMMIT - SNOOKY, AL, & CLARK

The above title may seem to refer to an arcane rock group, or perhaps a convention of plumbing contractors, but in reality it is a locally conceived device for drawing attention to one of those unique aspects of the jazz experience all too easily taken for granted, and symbolic of larger issues.

As jazz has expanded its musical and technical scope it has become common, even mandatory, for students to develop classical skills and knowledge in order to gain sufficient command of the possibilities of their instruments. Ironically, in some areas, particularly brass, it has been jazz practitioners who have developed the virtuosic potential to which most performers aspire. But on the other hand, how many method books include appropriately detailed instruction on the use of that most earthy and mundane yet expressive and eloquent appendage, the plunger mute?!

The fact is that this is one of those special and magical realms of aesthetic communication where the instrument truly "speaks" in a manner extending the reflective characteristics drawn from the human voice to a transcendent level, embracing blues, prayer, humor, and the conversational in ways hitherto unexplored and unimagined in traditional Western usage. Casual listeners who identify the trumpet spectrum with a lyric Bobby Hackett at one end and a pyrotechnical Maynard Ferguson at the other, replicated on the trombone perhaps by Tommy Dorsey and Bill Watrous, obviously have missed something, and even those who have been so fortunate as to be able to take the language of the plunger for granted may be unaware of such seminal figures as Bubber Miley and "Tricky Sam" Nanton.

Obviously, we will hear many other kinds of sounds this evening, but the point is that Snoooky (b. 1919), Al (b. 1925), and Clark (b. 1920) are as thoroughly immersed in the totality of the jazz tradition as any trio on earth - in truth they have been major contributors to its unfolding and vitality. As part of the vast variety of their individual experiences each has had a particularly strong identification with a different one of the three greatest black bands - Snoooky with Jimmy Lunceford, Al with Count Basie, and Clark with Duke Ellington; as we say in academia, they are credentialed, and speak with resultant authority. (And yes, aging late night TV viewers, Snoooky is the person you saw playing lead trumpet on the Tonight Show for 30 years!)

Gray, Marshall, and Les, Jr. are familiar figures in the UNH jazz extended family, where generational interaction is highly valued, and are immediately recognized in many other parts of the planet as well; (check out the wild drawing of Gray in the July 31 New
Yorke!). And we are most pleased to welcome one of Prof. Terry's favorite pianists, Don Friedman, into the fold.

In September of 1992 Snooky, Al, and Clark participated in two Basie Reunion concerts at UNH in which they were joined by distinguished alto saxophonist Marshal Royal. Just a year ago Marshal appeared in this series, and also on this very stage in the Harry Jones Memorial event. These were among his last public performances, and he passed away last May. He was a man of elegance and substance, musically and personally; with respect and love we dedicate this concert to his memory.

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 18 — 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