TRADITIONAL JAZZ SERIES

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OUR ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIRST PROGRAM

The M'N'M Trio

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

8 PM MONDAY
OCTOBER 6, 1997
STRAFFORD ROOM
MEMORIAL UNION BUILDING
DURHAM, NH
THE ARTISTS

THE M’N’M TRIO

Enthusiasm, commitment, and experience (plus, we hope, a modicum of honesty) combine to cause us to describe some of our events as being “unique”, “rare”, “one of a kind”, etc. If in the past this has generated bursts of overstatement, in the case at hand we have no fear of such an accusation; the singularity of the ensemble itself is matched by that of each of the individuals within it. As the distinguished college president (Oberlin), clarinetist (Louisiana Repertory Jazz Ensemble) and scholar (Red and Hot: The Fate of Jazz in the Soviet Union) S. Frederick Starr writes, “Like the bumblebee, this arrangement (of instruments) shouldn’t fly, yet the trio makes it do so, gloriously”.

Each of the instruments is readily identified with early jazz, and the chosen repertoire affirms this connection, but the treatment of those instruments by Jimmy, Eli, and Joe transcends the norms of the 20’s while at the same time retaining the flower and spirit which, like good literature, make the humanness of any period truly contemporary. Starr describes their style as a “heady mix of eclecticism, virtuosity, and lyricism...that is exciting, exceedingly pleasant, and wonderfully fresh”. These qualities can be permanently relished in their CD on Stomp Off, Halfway To Heaven.

Jimmy Mazzy has appeared numerous times on this series since its earliest days, in a variety of configurations; his banjo playing combines inventive melodic ability with an all-enveloping rhythmical drive, and his capacity for unearthing fascinating items of neglect and rejuvenating them in his truly inimitable vocal style has become legendary. Eli Newberger has been the tubist with the New Black Eagle Jazz Band throughout its quarter-century of existence, particularly surprising when one learns that he doubles as a widely-known pediatrician and expert on child abuse. His command of his instrument, both technically and musically is, as they say, “Awesome!”, and unprecedented. And Joe Muranyi takes us as close to the source as ever we will get; he was the final clarinetist with Louis Armstrong’s All Stars. A veteran of several first-class Dixieland groups, he also studied with Lennie Tristano; his playing is an inspiring model of the fusion of intuition and intellect.

This particular aggregation is only slightly less unusual than the one which spawned it. A decade or so ago Jimmy and Eli did a series of concerts and a recording - yes, just the two of them! (They had New England Foundation for the Arts support; take that, Jesse Helms!) The sponsor of the Sansy Snow Jazz Festival in France happened upon this striking artifact, and last year invited them to participate, and perhaps bring a friend. Thus, the M’N’M Trio was born.

Tonight we will hear a mix of instruments completely new to us, and a set of vintage selections to match; moreover we will encounter three consummate artists who are living proof that musical originality need not be esoteric, that fresh insights into the human condition are not limited to rock lyrics, and that there may well be gold in grandma’s piano bench!
The M'N'M Trio

JIMMY MAZZY, BANJO AND VOCALS
ELI NEWBERGER, TUBA
JOE MURANYI, CLARINET AND VOCALS

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 15  Clark Terry Quintet with Carol Sloane  
               (Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center)

October 6    M-N-M Trio with Jimmy Mazzy, banjo; Eli Newberger, tuba; Joe Muranyi, clarinet

November 10  Paul Broadnax and Friends

December 1   Artie Shaw Orchestra, directed by Dick Johnson  
               (Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center)

February 2   Duo, Brad Terry, clarinet and Joachim Mencel, piano  
               (Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center)

March 9      Galvanized Jazz Band and Spiegle Willcox, trombone

April 6      James Williams, solo piano  
               (Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center)

May 4        Claude Williams, violin; Norris Turney, saxophone; and Red Richards, piano  
               (Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center)

(Concerts in Strafford Room of the Memorial Union Building exception noted)