University of New Hampshire

Traditional Jazz Series

Celebrating our Twentieth Season!

Our One Hundred and Thirtieth Program
1998-1999

Senior Class

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

8:00 p.m. Monday, November 9, 1998
Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, Durham, NH
THE ARTISTS

AL GREY, JANE JARVIS, and PROF. CLARK TERRY

It will take little imagination for our audiences to perceive that in titling this program “Senior Class” we are toying a bit with the nuances of the English language; obviously we are not referring to matriculated undergraduates in their seventh semester, but to “seniors” (people beyond what used to be designated a “retirement age”) who have “class” (a unique quality of personal excellence setting them apart from most people of any age). Such individuals are by no means new to our stage – in fact, their presence each year has been a priority – but to have three in a fresh combination on one concert is a rare treat.

Students are not (yet) regular readers of the AARP Bulletin (American Association of Retired Persons to the uninitiated), but had they perused the June edition they would have seen an article about a group of non-retirees called the Statesmen of Jazz, formed by the American Federation of Jazz Societies in 1994 to honor and pass on the achievements of accomplished older players. Al, Jane, and Clark all are members, and recently returned from the group’s second trip to Japan.

A veteran of the heyday of the big bands, including Jimmy Lunceford, Lionel Hampton, Benny Carter, and two decades featured with Count Basie, Al Grey (b. 1925) is the acknowledged master of the plunger, having virtually codified (and assiduously contributed to!) the complex history of that humble implement as a medium of jazz expression. Noted for his spontaneity, warmth, and humor, Al has even shared a few choruses with aspiring saxophonist Bill Clinton.

Jan Jarvis’s unusual career perhaps deserves a multi-page appendix to these notes. A paid performer in Gary, Indiana at age eleven, she went on to be a vice president of Muzak, radio broadcaster, record producer, ASCAP member, recording artist, educator – and for sixteen years the organist for the New York Mets! And through all of this she kept up her jazz chops, and now, seventy-one years after her initial gig, she is the first woman member of the Statesmen. This is her first visit to UNH, and we are honored.

Dr. and Prof. Clark Terry truly needs no introduction to most in our audience. One of the most distinguished performers/educators on the planet, he is on campus principally for the first of his two annual residencies, a great source of pride for us. His ties with UNH go
back to 1975; given their parity in age and orbital stature, one could think of Clark as the John Glenn of the trumpet, except for the latter’s thirty-six year gap.

John Hunter, (not yet a member of the Statesmen), started teaching bass at UNH the year this series began. Although he has performed in countless events on campus (as well as nationally), inexplicably this is his first appearance on the series itself; perhaps Ken Starr can check it out. Les Harris, Jr., has escaped similar neglect, though he is sometimes confused with his father, and vice versa. (The senior Les will be playing here with another Statesman Bob Wilber, in January).

Whatever conflicts of interest, nepotism, etc., obtain in all of this will be determined by the special prosecutor. While you are waiting, enjoy this cross-generational blast. (Wow! Even that sounds suspicious in the present climate!)
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

1998-1999 SCHEDULE

September 14: New Black Eagle Jazz Band

October 19: Donna Byrne & Company

November 9: Trombonist Al Grey, Jane Jarvis, piano, & Clark Terry, trumpet

January 25: Clarinetist Bob Wilber

March 1: The New York Perspective: Dick Oatts, reeds, Mike Abene, piano

April 5: Dick Hyman, piano

May 3: The Original Salty Dogs

OTHER SPECIAL JAZZ PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

October 14: Rebecca Parris, John Bunch and Bucky Pizzarelli with the Seacoast Big Band.
Harry Jones Memorial Education Fund Concert, Portsmouth Music Hall (603) 436-6017

January 19: James Williams and the Intensive Care Unit, Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH

March 21: Gala Jazz Concert: Dr. Clark Terry and guests with the UNH Jazz Band.
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