Do Nothing 'Til You Hear From Us"

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

8 p.m. Monday, April 10, 2000, Johnson Theatre
Paul Creative Arts Center, Durham, NH
THE ARTISTS

Buddy DeFranco, Dave McKenna and Joe Cohn

The jazz world is replete with stories which provide a background of human color and texture to the sounding events themselves; the music of course stands alone, but does not happen in a vacuum. Many such tales (tall or otherwise) are lost to history, but the genesis of tonight’s event deserves a better fate.

When Buddy DeFranco appeared on this series in the spring of 1996 (in a quintet including Joe Cohn), seacoast jazz aficionado and zealous promoter of worthy causes, Joe Stellmach, was reminded of Buddy’s remarkable duo performances in the 1950’s with both Art Tatum and Oscar Peterson, and could visualize him paired with Joe’s favorite pianist, Dave McKenna (who gave the first concert in this series in October, 1979). A new cause had emerged, and by the following October, Buddy and Dave were featured in the annual Harry W. Jones, Jr. concert at Portsmouth’s Music Hall. A week later they recorded an album for Concord Jazz called You Must Believe In Swing for which a Grammy nomination was forthcoming, and the momentum continued with Do Nothing ‘Til You Hear From Us, Joe Cohn adding spice to the mix. Tonight it all leaps to life on our stage, with the indefatigable Mister Stellmach beaming benignly from the audience, (undoubtedly undergoing an attack of acute embarrassment because of these words!)

Buddy’s technical command of his instrument is matched only by his sweeping experience in the whole evolution of the jazz language; as we noted in 1996, “he is practically the only ‘name’ clarinetist from the swing era who imaginatively absorbed the newer musical dialects into his style and fused everything into a language characterized by universality, contemporaneity, integrity, and taste.” His art ranges from the peak of the swing era, most notably the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, and later the post-war Glenn Miller aggregation, which he actually fronted, to more musically intimate interaction with much luminaries as Count Basie, Art Blakey, Billie Holiday, Terry Gibbs, and Lennie Tristano. He first appeared here in 1978, at the UNH Jazz Festival, and some of that visit is memorialized on the UNH Jazz Band’s first recording (a true collector’s item!)

Dave has performed here on numerous occasions, the most recent being with Donna Byrne in 1996. He is noted for being a self-contained rhythm machine, making even the knowledgeable among us wonder how just two hands can produce such a pervasive swinging atmosphere while at the same time providing copious melodic and harmonic activity, always refreshingly inventive. Dave attributes his exhaustible lyric sense to his
Buddy DeFranco, clarinet
Dave McKenna, piano
Joe Cohn, guitar

early contact with such horn players as Bobby Hackett and Stan Getz; he also professes to be self-taught (ponder that, guys!), yet one of his most exuberant fans is Kurt Masur, renowned conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

Joe Cohn’s recognition by Buddy and Dave is as much of a recommendation as one could possibly want; those with long memories will recall his father, Al, as one of the tenors from Woody Herman’s Four Brothers period. And when Joe was here in 1996, he was also practicing Bach preludes and fugues on the piano (ponder that, guys!)

Postscript: The decline in popularity of the clarinet as a jazz instrument among younger players has often been commented upon. Well, from this writer’s recent experience there is good news and bad news. The latter involves hearing an Ellington anniversary program by an excellent ensemble in a major music college where the definitive clarinet parts were played on the soprano sax because none of the school’s best reed players doubled on the clarinet. The good news is hearing two high school groups play Duke’s The Mooche with three clarys apiece. Maybe what goes around does come around!

Tape recorders and cameras are not permitted due to contractual arrangements. Please turn off beepers and watch alarms. Your cooperation is requested.

Visit Buddy DeFranco on his web site www.buddydefranco.com
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

1999-2000 SCHEDULE

September 13: The Real Herb Pomeroy Quintet, featuring John La Porta
October 25: "The Men They Will Become"; Eli Newberger, Jimmy Mazzy, & Butch Thompson
November 22: The Prodigious Kenny Werner
January 24: A Tribute to Red Norvo; Ed Saindon, Howard Alden, & Steve Novosel
February 28: Fabulous Fiddle Fest: Three Generations; Claude Williams, Billy Contreras, & Lesa Terry
April 10: "Do Nothing 'Til You Hear From Us"; Buddy DeFranco, Dave McKenna, & Joe Cohn
May 1: Benny Powell and Jane Jarvis

OTHER SPECIAL JAZZ PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

October 2: Family Weekend Concert, Seacoast Big Band, Dave Seiler, directing. This night of swing music includes dancing and refreshments. Granite State Room, Memorial Union Building.

January 18: Harry Jones Memorial Education Fund Concert, Seacoast Big Band, Dave Seiler, directing; with special, surprise guest artist! Proceeds to assist senior high school students who will major in music. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, PCAC.

March 12: Gala Jazz Concert, Dr. Clark Terry, trumpet and flugel horn; Bud Shank, alto sax artist; with Mark Elf, guitar; Chris Neville, piano; UNH Jazz Band, Colin Mason, directing. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.

For tickets call (603)862-2290