UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

OUR FOURTEENTH PROGRAM

THE INCOMPARABLE

DAVE McKENNA

ALONE AT THE PIANO

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

8 PM MONDAY
MARCH 8, 1982
STRAFFORD ROOM
MEMORIAL UNION
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
THE ARTIST

DAVE McKENNA

When this series began in the fall of 1979 it was not difficult to select Dave McKenna as the opening artist. For one thing he was a New England musician richly deserving public visibility and acclaim comparable to his prestigious status among his peers; more importantly we knew him to be a simply consummate performer, as the results of that concert amply demonstrated.

Dave was born in Woonsocket, Rhode Island on May 30, 1930. He received early piano instruction from local nuns and later studied in Boston with Sandy Sandiford. Although always one to explore jazz possibilities by ear, he also had classical training with the noted composer/conductor C. Alexander Peloquin, but insists he still cannot play scales correctly. (He doesn’t need to!) After working in the 50’s with Charlie Ventura, Woody Herman, Buddy Rich, Gene Krupa, and Jazz at the Philharmonic, he joined the house band at Eddie Condon’s in New York, and late in the 60’s spent much time with Peanuts Hucko at his club in Denver. Since 1971 Cape Cod has been his base of operations, and he has shared many programs with Zoot Sims, Flip Phillips, the late Bobby Hackett, and our recent guest Red Norvo. Currently he is in residence at the Plaza Bar at Boston’s Copley Plaza, and has just taped a performance there with Tony Bennett to be telecast on PBS.

Dave is one of those rare pianists who truly plays with both hands and somehow conveys the three separate dimensions of melody, harmony and rhythm; Dick Wellstood from last year’s series in another. Whitney Balliett of “The New Yorker” calls him “Super Chops”, and Bobby Hackett, a good judge of musical character, referred to him as “the greatest piano player living.” It’s difficult not to agree with those assessments, and it is a pleasure to welcome Dave McKenna back to UNH, and acknowledge the greater renown he has achieved since his first visit.
THE PROGRAM

Dave's usual approach is to remain at the piano and let one selection blend into the next unannounced. We are certain most will be known to you, and that in other cases Dave will satisfy your curiosity at intermission or after the concert.
The UNH Traditional Jazz Series, now in its third year, promotes the enjoyment and understanding of the art through concerts including musicians of regional, national, and international prominence. The program is based on the fundamental convictions that there are no age barriers in the performance and appreciation of this idiom, and that its joyousness and creativity are ever-renewable. Our combined sponsorship unites students, faculty, and continually devoted enthusiasts in a unique endeavor to expand interest, and honor outstanding talent and achievement.

April 12

New Black Eagle Jazz Band

Many of the artists presented in our series are available only on private recordings not readily found in stores. For the benefit of the public, musicians wishing to do so are encouraged to offer their recordings for sale or mail order, at the back of the hall during intermission. A brief announcement may be made. The sponsors have no financial interest in such sales beyond offering a courtesy service to the artist and public.

Cameras and tape recorders are not permitted. Your cooperation is requested. Films or recordings by the sponsors are for the benefit of students, who may inquire about their availability at the Dimond Library.

Program Notes — Paul Verrette

Production— David Seiler