The Bobby Lewis Quartet

Our One Hundred Forty-first Program
2000-2001

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

8 p.m. Monday, September 11, 2000, Strafford Room
Memorial Union Building, Durham, NH
THE ARTISTS

THE BOBBY LEWIS QUARTET

Welcome to the first concert of our 22nd season; please understand that we have returned temporarily to the MUB not for reasons of nostalgia but because of the necessary renovations of the stage area of the Johnson Theatre.

The beginning of a new year is as good a time as any to reflect a bit on what we are about. Our fundamental statement on the back page allows for considerable latitude, and each year we try to frame the mainstream of the tradition with artists from each end of the spectrum who illustrate from whence the central idiom comes and whither it may be heading. But beyond honoring the art form itself and those who labor both continually and afresh to keep it alive and vital, we are perhaps most proud of bringing to the community such historical figures as Doc Cheatham, Benny Carter, Milt Hinton, Marshal Royal, Claude Williams, Benny Waters, and Spiegle Wilcox, all demonstrating unflagging inventiveness into their late 80s and beyond. Such moments are rich, precious, and incapable of replication. Traditional jazz may resist incontrovertible definition or description, but the actuality of it is in the people whose imaginative efforts, (whether studied or spontaneous), and human interaction, (whether particularized or diverse), brought a new sensibility, multicultural before that term was in use, to the art of music.

Concerning this evening's event, the case can be made—perhaps to the discomfort of saxophonists, and others—that the trumpet has been the most defining instrument in the unfolding of the jazz saga. Noting only the most salient points of reference, this phenomenon reaches back to the tragic (and unrecorded) Buddy Bolden, through Louis Armstrong and so many others in the 1920s and '30s to the “revolution” heralded by Dizzy Gillespie in the '40s and the various personal reinventions of Miles Davis in subsequent decades, with the current traversal of the past being presided over, not without controversy, by Wynton Marsalis. Bobby Lewis has absorbed and digested this entire history, as well as much else about the complex world of professional music, and his comprehensive artistry makes him an ideal personality to introduce to our audience at the start of a new year.

Based in Chicago, but with Wisconsin roots, Bobby is a first-call full-time studio musician with over 7000 (yes, that is the correct number of zeros!) recording sessions to his credit. He has toured and recorded with Jack Teagarden, Tex Beneke, and the Modernaires, and has been music director for Peggy Lee. The recipient of two composition grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, he has performed with the St. Louis and Chicago Symphony Orchestras among others, made several highly diverse CDs, and appeared in
jazz festivals in India, Japan, and Australia as well as Europe and North America. Bobby Lewis is indeed a complete musician, and long overdue to be invited to this part of the country; we have finally gotten the message!

Jim Ryan has long been active in both Los Angeles and Chicago. He was the keyboardist on a Grammy-award winning album by Al Jarreau, and has participated in the North Sea Jazz Festival as has Thomas Kini, a native New Zealander who studied in Australia and performed all over Europe before settling in Chicago. Both Jim and Thomas are on five of Bobby’s CDs. They are joined tonight by Les Harris, Jr., hardly a stranger to us, whose work with so many celebrities in the northeast (and around the world with The Ritz!) has well-advertized the quality of his musicianship.

And speaking of trumpet players, don’t miss the Clark Terry Exhibition in the Dimond Library (Special Collections, first floor). It will open in early October and remain through his 80th birthday on December 14 which will be celebrated here at UNH.

Finally, we expect to be back in the Johnson Theatre for our next concert, but best to stay alert!

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

2000-2001 SCHEDULE

**September 11:** Chicago’s Best: Bobby Lewis

**October 2:** The Frank Wess Quartet

**October 30:** Bob Wilber Presents Fletcher Henderson

**January 22:** Don Doane’s Super Senior Sextet

**February 12:** Bill Mays at the Steinway

**April 9:** Ray Smith’s Paramount Jazz Band

OTHER SPECIAL JAZZ PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

**October 28:** *Family Weekend Concert, UNH JAZZ BAND,* Dave Seiler, directing; UNH JAZZ CHOIR, William Kempster, directing; with special guest artist, *Bob Wilber,* clarinet. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.

**December 14:** *Clark Terry's 80th Birthday Celebration,* with special guests, including *Bob Brookmeyer,* trombone; and *Roger Kellaway,* piano; with a Big Band of UNH Alumni conducted by Dave Seiler; and the Clark Terry Quintet: *Don Friedman,* piano; *Sylvia Cuenca,* drums; *Marcus McLaurine,* bass; and *Dave Glasser,* sax. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.

**January 16:** *Harry Jones Memorial Concert,* Seacoast Big Band, Dave Seiler, directing; with special guest composer/pianist *Bob Florence.* Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.

**Jan 28 – Feb 1:** Guest Residency: Composer, scholar, and conductor of the Smithsonian Jazz Orchestra, *David Baker,* Distinguished Professor of Music, Indiana University. Contact the UNH Department of Music at (603) 862-2404 for complete residency schedule.

**March 11:** *Gala Jazz Concert,* Dr. Clark Terry, trumpet and flugelhorn; with special guest woodwind artist, *Paquito D'Rivera,* and the UNH JAZZ BAND, Dave Seiler, directing. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.

For tickets call (603)862-2290