Our One Hundred Forty-fourth Program
2000-2001

Don Doane’s
Super Senior Sextet

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

8 p.m. Monday, January 22, 2001, Johnson Theatre
Paul Creative Arts Center, Durham, NH
THE ARTISTS

Don Doane's Super Senior Sextet

The geography of jazz remains a largely unexplored—or at least generally neglected—realm. Even Ken Burns seems to be adhering basically to the major New Orleans to Chicago to New York axis. When and how jazz reached various non-urban locations is doubtless a variegated and complex topic; that the art obviously did so long before the communications industry could provide instant access to every individual palpitation of the universal human heart certainly is provocative. For example, when the writer of these notes was growing up nearby in the middle of a recent century, he was informed that some of the finest musicians around were not daily passengers on the MBTA but instead were breathing (at least selectively) the cleaner air of that land of pine trees and potatoes, the State of Maine. Nevertheless, when said writer was in the Army during the Korean War (congruent with Don Doane) most of the musicians there encountered, from New York or parts unknown, had no conception that anything independently existed north of Boston—and even today we tend to look in a southerly direction when we reach beyond our immediate surroundings.

As our nation faces problems of air pollution and other environmental threats it is clear that Maine has unusual preservative qualities. Thus as native Don Doane surveyed his own surroundings at that point in life which the bureaucracy naively designates as “post-retirement”, it did not take long for him to ascertain that there were several colleagues nearby who were in similar circumstances and eager to continue their involvement with the music which had enriched their lives—and through them the lives of so many others—as the decades multiplied. It was decided that not only would they perform together as an aggregation of people of a certain age, but that Don would further demonstrate the longevity of his creative powers by writing a book of arrangements which would capture the stylistic milieu in which they all had flourished. The result is the Super Senior Sextet.

The word “senior” has several meanings, as the UNH registrar, your local gerontologist, and the IRS will attest. Tonight it means that the performers have lived, listened, and performed through numerous manifestations of the changing surface of the jazz language, and have continually found refreshment for each of their individual voices, so central to the substance of the jazz experience. In this sense, seniority transcends such mundane matters as age, and illustrates George Bernard Shaw’s maxim. “Youth is a wonderful thing; it’s too bad it’s wasted on young people”, (freely transcribed).

Beyond his legendary virtuosity, Don brings an incredible wealth of experience to this task, his work with Maynard Ferguson, Buddy Rich, and others no doubt nurturing his sense of how to write for an ensemble, even such an intimate one. And his conferees have comparable backgrounds, which their status as permanent Mainers has allowed to season into a range of flavors and colors combining perspicacity and spontaneity. This is jazz as mature art—joyful, expressive, personal, and unrestricted by the indiscretions of youth and the imprisonment of the city, (even if the drummer did have to lie about his age to qualify—after all, that practice started with Louis Armstrong!)

And brace yourselves; would you believe that Don Doane has been selected recently by Portland Magazine as No. 1 on their list of Maine’s Most Intriguing Persons? (Too bad Ken Burns didn’t know!)

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We sadly note the passing on December 19 at age 90 of one of the most treasured participants of this series and dearest friends, Milt Hinton. The Judge graced our campus numerous times starting in 1986, and was truly in so many ways the most super of seniors. May he rest in well-earned peace.
Don Doane’s Super Senior Sextet

Don Doane, trombone
Ralph Norris, saxophone
Joe LaFlamme, saxophone
Gerry Wright, piano
Al Doane, bass
Paul Jensen, drums

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

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 Cuencca, 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