Our Twenty-fifth Season

Our One Hundred Sixty-third Program
2003-2004

First Annual Tommy Gallant Memorial Scholarship Concert:
The Press Room Connection
featuring
Harry Allen, Warren Vaché and Joe Cohn

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

8 p.m. Monday, March 1, 2004
Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, Durham, NH
THE ARTISTS

The word “special” may be overused in our descriptions of various of our events, but tonight it is singularly appropriate. This concert inaugurates a plan whereby one program each year on the Traditional Jazz Series will be designated as the Tommy Gallant Memorial Concert, and its proceeds will be applied to the scholarship fund established by his family following his untimely passing in 1998. Tom performed on over a dozen of these programs with a wide variety of artists, typifying the role he played in vivifying jazz in the Seacoast area and beyond for so many years. Often he worked in a trio format with Jim Howe and Les Harris, Junior or Senior, with Portsmouth’s Press Room being the center of much of the activity. Tom was a personal favorite of Dorothy Prescott, who initiated our series and also underwrote his solo LP; she especially loved his sensitive (and swinging) interaction with the spacious range of musical personalities who came his way, among them Harry Allen, Warren Vaché, and Joe Cohn.

Certainly one of the more intriguing aspects of jazz expression is the unpredictable freshness and excitement that can come from a combination of distinctive artists who have not played together before as an actual group. This may not compare with NASCAR driving as high-risk activity, but it does actualize one of the deeper mysteries of the human condition. One might develop one’s physical technique to the ultimate level yet not be able to transfer it successfully to musical interplay—sort of like the guy who is great in the weight room but not in the game. Just what catalyzes the imagination in such circumstances remains a cosmic secret, but one for which we remain thankful. As a wise man once wrote, “The subjective artist sees with one eye, but the objective artist is blind.”

Harry, Warren, and Joe all have appeared on this series previously, albeit in different configurations. Each manifests a blend of personal creativity and historical perspective which reminds us dramatically of how the rich decades of our jazz heritage continue to inspire individuality. Granting that the central language of jazz may be universal, every practitioner nevertheless develops his own dialect.

Although Harry is still in his thirties, it is 20 years since he replaced Zoot Sims in Bucky Pizzarelli’s combo, and astute listeners recognize that he is well-versed in the diverse idioms of Ben Webster, Stan Getz, and Paul Gonsalves, to name a few. Warren was already reinvigorating the traditional jazz scene (particularly through the New York Jazz Repertory Co.) when Wynton Marsalis was still in grammar school. A long-time colleague of Scott Hamilton, his unique musical voice reflects elements ranging from Louis and Bix to Clifford Brown. Joe is the son of tenorman Al Cohn from the Woody Herman Four Brothers era, and also plays piano, bass, and trumpet (!) His fluidity of style emanates in part from his intense curiosity culminating in his transcriptions of solos by such non-guitarists as Art Tatum—and Clifford Brown (!) And Jim and Les will carry an exceptional burden of memory tonight as they recall originally meeting each of our guests with the Tom Gallant Trio.

Recipients of the scholarship must exemplify Tom’s values, and the initial graduates—pianists Matt Fogg and Nate Wilson—have justified our faith in them, both professionally and personally. To this we must add that there can be no better musical role models than Harry Allen, Warren Vaché, and Joe Cohn.

Finally, we express a sincere “Thank you” to our audience and donors—and ask you to tell your friends!
Harry Allen, saxophone
Warren Vaché, trumpet
Joe Cohn, guitar
assisted by:
Jim Howe, bass
and
Les Harris, Jr., 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 through the imaginative vision and generous commitment of the late Dorothy C. Prescott. 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

2003-2004 SCHEDULE

September 22: Continuing to Soar: The New Black Eagle Jazz Band
October 20: The Latin Tinge: Bebop Samba
November 24: The Hottest of the Cool: Lee Konitz
February 2: Shades of Bix: The Wolverine Jazz Band
March 1: First Annual Tommy Gallant Scholarship Concert: The Press Room Connection
April 5: Double-Barreled Piano: Marian McPartland and Benny Green

OTHER SPECIAL JAZZ PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

October 4: Family Weekend Concert, UNH JAZZ BAND and COMBOS, Dave Seiler, directing; UNH JAZZ SINGERS, William Kempster, directing. Granite State Room, Memorial Union Building, UNH.

January 20: Harry Jones Memorial Concert: Seacoast Big Band featuring composer ANITA BROWN, UNH '84; Dave Seiler, directing. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.

March 21: Gala Jazz Concert, DR. CLARK TERRY, trumpet and flugelhorn with BENNY GREEN, piano, JOHN CLAYTON, bass, and JEFF HAMILTON, drums and the UNH JAZZ BAND, Dave Seiler, directing, PLUS a treasure trove of trumpeters in tribute to their mentor. Trumpets are: Stjepko Gut, Dave Ballou, Tony Lujan, and Trent Austin. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.

For tickets call (603)862-2290