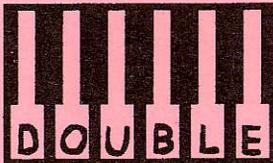




TRADITIONAL  
**Jazz**  
SERIES

Our Twenty-fifth Season

Our One Hundred Sixty-fourth Program  
2003-2004



**MARIAN MCPARTLAND AND BENNY GREEN**

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

8 p.m. Monday, April 5, 2004  
Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, Durham, NH

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## THE ARTISTS

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### Marian McPartland and Benny Green

Because of the improvisatory nature of the art it does not stretch credulity to suggest that in a certain way every jazz performance is a “first”, but tonight’s program does have some special attributes. For one thing, although there were a few two-piano concerts in the Memorial Union Building in the 80s, this is the first in this hall on two 9-foot grands (one of them being the technologically reborn predecessor of the other!). Moreover, we have the unprecedented case of a featured artist appearing on our series just two weeks after a previous performance on the same stage! And most importantly, it is all happening because the visit here two years ago of jazz’s most distinguished lady was such a joyous occasion for all parties involved—including the gentleman who told me that it was even worth it to have had his illegally parked car towed for \$75!).

When Marian McPartland appeared here in 2002 we could not help but opine on this page that “in connection with her weekly program *Piano Jazz* on National Public Radio she has engaged, inspired, and learned from generations of her fellow pianists in a manner with no precedent, parallel or possibility of replication.” Moreover, the aesthetic content of that particular performance also suggested that in the course of this 25-year endeavor she had discovered the Fountain of Youth. (And she is already booked again at Tanglewood’s Jazz Weekend next August!)

Given Marian’s vast range of pianistic associates there obviously were numerous possibilities in selecting a collaborator for this concert, but her choice of Benny Green was a singular inspiration. Those many of us who heard him in this very room with John Clayton and Jeff Hamilton encountered an artist with rare super chops and a rarer capacity to apply them sensitively and imaginatively to a stylistic spectrum revealing him to be a true musical soul-mate for Marian. Benny (b. 1963) works regularly with a young generation of creative jazz players, but following stints with Betty Carter, Art Blakey and Freddy Hubbard, he came to wider prominence in 1992 replacing Gene Harris in the Ray Brown Trio, and in 1993 received the Glenn Gould Foundation’s very first International Protégé Prize, awarded by Oscar Peterson; thus the roots are deep, solid, and impressive.

The demography and geography of the community of jazz are complex, but it also has its intimate dimensions. In the “bringing it close to home” department, local discophiles might seek out a Chesky CD made in 1999 called *Clark Terry One on One* where the indefatigable Dr. Terry plays duets with 14 (!) different pianists, each selection being an historical tribute. Who provides a consummate exploration of Fats Waller’s *Honeysuckle Rose* but Benny Green, and the disc closes appropriately with Marian’s insightful reflections on Hoagy Carmichael’s *Skylark*.

Marian McPartland, whose 85<sup>th</sup> birthday was more than duly noted in New York and elsewhere a year ago March, has performed with many musicians whose dates of birth significantly preceded the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; (her late trumpeter husband, Jimmy, was born in 1907), and if Benny matches Marian’s longevity and vitality, he will be playing, learning, and nurturing others as the last half of the 21<sup>st</sup> begins. As we ponder the implications of this historical span and the panorama of human experiences involved therein, we can be even more thankful for the gift of jazz, and for this present moment, ever to cherish. And we know that the writer two centuries ago who stated that, “Spring makes everything young except man”, simply had not yet been able to hear Marian McPartland, Benny Green, or any of the numerous others who give springtime to our spirits anytime or anywhere, but especially several times a year here at UNH. Rejoice!



MARIAN MCPARTLAND

&

BENNY GREEN

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

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## THE SERIES

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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*

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## 2003-2004 SCHEDULE

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- 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

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## OTHER SPECIAL JAZZ PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

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- 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.*

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For tickets call (603)862-2290