Our One Hundred Sixty-Fifth Program
2004-2005

Eli Newberger All-Stars

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

8 p.m. Monday, September 20, 2004
Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, Durham, NH
THE ARTISTS

Eli Newberger All-Stars

Having completed 25 years of concerts in this series, as we enter our 26th season the opening event by its very nature gives us cause for reflection (something we are want to undertake even without an excuse!)

Contemporary society is replete with categorization. Pollsters, Grammy Award planners, baseball writers, et al. are prone to provide narrow identities which, whatever their value, tend to foster a circumscribed view of human potential. (What was once termed a pitcher is now described as a starter, closer, long reliever, short reliever, etc.) Musical activity is hardly exempt from this practice, particularly in matters of style. (Is Beethoven a Classic or Romantic composer? One respected writer resolved this issue by designating him a Napoleonic composer!) Jazz developed rapidly from its earliest identifiable manifestation, and with its ties for so long to the popular culture, stylistic change was frequent. Although many performers are extremely flexible in their abilities, it is nonetheless true that the imperatives of category tend to pigeonhole players so that any interaction across certain expected boundaries is viewed as tantamount to perverted cross-breeding.

Those familiar with the variety available in the New England jazz scene will recognize that tonight’s line-up includes a number of combinations of people who are not usually found on the same stage, at least at the same time; this is not a round-up of the usual suspects. But stylistic categorizations aside, each of them is almost a New England legend: Eli Newberger was for decades a stalwart member of the New Black Eagle Jazz Band and is now exploring other musical horizons as a leader; Bo Winiker is from a musical family and entourage that have probably entertained more people in more venues than any other group in the region; Brad Terry is particularly noted for bringing jazz instruction to young people in Poland (and for whistling tunes other than Dixie!); Ted Casher emerged from the Maine woods to continually blanket much of the rest of the Northeast with the warmth of his sound and expression; Bob Winter’s pianism was heard for years on WBZ-TV’s Community Auditions, with the Boston Pops, and in the classiest solo venues; Jimmy Mazzy plays his instrument like no one else, sings songs known by no one else, and quite regularly visits Garrison Keillor. And we have the bonus of a New Yorker, even before the playoffs, the leader’s “triple-threat” brother Henry, doubtless an example of insightful nepotism.

The great moments in jazz improvisation have always involved the relationship of personal voice to collective effort, where each participant makes his unique presence felt, but in a context where he listens and relates to the musical activity surrounding him. Whatever their individuality, all of tonight’s performers are so conversant with the many shades of jazz’s variegated tapestry of sonic colors and expressive nuances that they can engage in a quality of conversation truly revealing the common ground underlying the various idioms of the jazz language.

Dr. Newberger wrote a scholarly book on the education of young males titled The Men They Will Become. Tonight he has turned his expertise to gathering a remarkable group of apparently older males who in demonstrating something of what they have become will edify us with a level of imaginative and counter-categorical human discourse far transcending the norms of this election year, and for which we are more—evermore—than grateful!
Traditional Jazz Series

Eli Newberger, tuba
Bo Winiker, trumpet
Brad Terry, clarinet, whistler
Ted Casher, saxophone
Bob Winter, piano
Jimmy Mazzy, banjo, vocals
Henry Newberger, trombone

Special Note:

In connection with the fall conference of the New England Jazz Alliance, its exhibition honoring the first 15 members of the New England Jazz Hall of Fame will be on display in the Special Collections area on the first floor of the Dimond Library beginning on October 25. At the concert on that date, NEJA will honor the late Dorothy Prescott, founder of the New Hampshire Library of Traditional Jazz, with its “Unsung Hero” award.

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

2004-2005 SCHEDULE

September 20: Whistlin' Dixie: The Eli Newberger All-Stars

October 25: Ellingtonia Plus: Clark Terry, Jimmy Woode and Shawnn Monteiro

November 22: Triple Play: Dick Hyman, Howard Alden, and Jay Leonhart

January 24: Second Annual Tommy Gallant Scholarship Concert:
The Incomparable Bob Wilber Pays Tribute to the Incomparable Johnny Hodges

February 28: Manhattan Magic: The Bob Mintzer Quartet

April 4: Right from the Source: Dave Pietro's Banda Brazil

OTHER SPECIAL JAZZ PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

October 23: Family Weekend Concert, UNH JAZZ BAND and COMBOS, Dave Seiler, directing; UNH JAZZ SINGERS, William Kempster, directing. Strafford Room, Memorial Union Building, UNH.

January 18: Harry Jones Memorial Concert: Seacoast Big Band featuring trombonist/composer JAY ASHBY; Dave Seiler, directing. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.

March 13: Gala Jazz Concert, DR. CLARK TERRY, trumpet and flugelhorn and the UNH JAZZ BAND, Dave Seiler, directing, Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.

For tickets call (603)862-2290