



Our Twenty-seventh Season

Our One Hundred Seventy-first Program
2005-2006

RAY SMITH'S
PARAMOUNT JAZZ BAND
(OF BOSTON)

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

8 p.m. Monday, September 19, 2005
Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, Durham, NH

THE ARTISTS

Given our proclivity to promote the value of the music on its own terms, a touch of nostalgia may seem a bit out of place, but given the fragility of so much of our existence perhaps we may be forgiven at the start of our 27th season for a modest but heartfelt indulgence. To wit; it seems most appropriate to acknowledge that Ray Smith first appeared in February, 1980 in Concert #3 of our 170, and was a member of the original New Hampshire Library of Traditional Jazz Board of Advisors which provided valuable counsel in those incipient days. Moreover, Jimmy Mazzy was on #7 in December of the same year; both have returned numerous times in a variety of configurations.

In 1980, Ray organized the *Paramount Jazz Band of Boston* (thus geographically distinguishing it from those similarly named elsewhere), and in 1985 its present personnel was solidified; this therefore is their 20th anniversary year. Ironically, despite their original Boston identity, for personal and professional reasons the members of the band are now dispersed through 6 states and 5 regions of the country (including a medical practice in Biloxi, Mississippi!), assembling for festivals, special events, and recording sessions. Their somewhat unusual instrumentation allows flavors of both the classic improvised ensemble and the more formal users of written orchestrations. (Notice the diverse mixtures emanating from just those three horns!)

We have heard much reference recently to the somewhat undefined “great American songbook;” certainly this is for good reason given various current alternatives, the character of which defies any description proper to this page. However, the richness of that revered heritage is by no means exhaustive. You will hear selections this evening (as well as on the Paramount Band’s several CDs) which stem from that era but will be totally unfamiliar to you, yet they compare positively in invention to many so-called “standards”.

The fact is that beyond the human frailties and inequities with which we all are familiar, success in the artistic world involves a complex of factors which at best transcend logic, predictability, and analysis. The path to recognition of enduring value is hardly linear, and this is why the past can often surprise us more than the present. At the very least we discover that whatever their styles and fortunes, the popular idioms of the first half of the 20th century were immensely sophisticated, and devoid of calculated ugliness. Thus we give thanks that there is an enlightened cadre within the extended jazz community which brings these gems to light—and, we hope, to the attention of the musically curious, both listeners and performers.

Finally, a personal observation from your hosts. Although humility may elude us as we congratulate ourselves on having presented 170 concerts since 1979, we do note with awe that over approximately that same time span Ray Smith has presented at least 170 more than 2000 weekly programs on WGBH-FM (*The Jazz Decades*, Sundays from 7-8 pm), essentially drawn from his vast record collection. We simply wonder if anyone else has ever introduced so many people to so much music, making “the past” seem eternally present.

It is both a pleasure and an honor to have the Paramount Jazz Band on this stage once again, and we extend special thanks because current events have made their geographical challenge that much more difficult. Such continued devotion to performing this music together at so high a level is a labor of love and conviction, and to sound a contemporary note (pun intended), it is a true work of community in the most intimate sense.



TRADITIONAL
Jazz
SERIES

JEFF HUGHES, CORNET & FLUGELHORN
GARY RODBERG, CLARINET & ALTO SAX
STEVE WRIGHT, REEDS & CORNET
ROBIN VERDIER, PIANO
JIMMY MAZZY, BANJO & VOCALS
CHUCK STEWART, TUBA
&
RAY SMITH, DRUMS & LEADER

*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

2005-2006 SCHEDULE

- September 19: At Least One More Time: Ray Smith's Paramount Jazz Band
♦
October 17: Generational Concurrence: Frank Wess and Terell Stafford
♦
November 21: A Feast of Bones: George Masso and Jeff Galindo
♦
January 30: Third Annual Tommy Gallant Scholarship Concert:
The Hot Club of Portland: Django Reinhardt Almost in Person
♦
February 20: The Wisdom of Youth: Geoff Keezer Trio
♦
April 3: International Incident: George Robert and the Mulgrew Miller Trio

OTHER SPECIAL JAZZ PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

- October 22: *Family Weekend Concert, UNH JAZZ BAND and COMBOS, Dave Seiler and Erika Svanoe, directing. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.*
♦
December 14: *Clark Terry 85th Birthday Bash. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.*
♦
January 17: *Harry Jones Memorial Concert: Celebrating Paul Broadnax's 80th Birthday; Seacoast Big Band, Dave Seiler, directing. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.*
♦
January 20: *Faculty Jazz Sextet: Jared Sims and David Seiler, woodwinds; Mark Shilansky, piano; David Newsam, guitar; John Hunter, bass; Les Harris, Jr., drums. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.*
♦
March 12: *Gala Jazz Concert, DR. CLARK TERRY, trumpet and flugelhorn and the UNH JAZZ BAND, Dave Seiler, directing, Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.*

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For tickets call (603)862-2290