Our Twenty-eighth Season

Our One Hundred Seventy-Program
2006-2007

Two Bass Hit (at the very least!)
The Donna Byrne Quartet

The Wood/Ballou Tribute to Ray Brown

Fourth-Annual Tommy Gallant Memorial Scholarship Fund Concert

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

8 p.m. Monday, January 29, 2007
Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, Durham, NH
THE ARTISTS

Donna Byrne Quartet and Wood/Ballou Ray Brown Tribute

We always hope that our programs are characterized by the interaction of imagination with historical perspective, the elements of surprise and unpredictability also being frequent occurrences. Donna Byrne and Marshall Wood have devised an event this evening which certainly demonstrates these qualities in a most refreshing and provocative manner, dramatizing aesthetic relationships no less powerful because of their indefinability.

Featured singers being somewhat of a rarity on this series, Donna’s several previous visits have caused us to reflect on those properties that transmogrify vocalists into jazz artists. Without resorting to analytical tedium, we can observe that the human voice itself in good hands, so to speak, can be a musical instrument, and the scope of its technical and expressive potential is not unlike that of the more mechanical tools of the trade, but with the extra added attraction of dealing with actual texts as well as pitches, inflections, and that mysterious necessity called swing. Each of Donna’s several CDs freshly reveals her personal imagination and perspective in artistically realizing the challenges of this special expressive medium. And those who earlier joined her on this stage are testimony to the magnetism of her musicianship; for example, Herb Pomeroy, Dave McKenna, Scott Hamilton, and Bucky Pizzarelli, not to mention Tim Ray and Jim Gwin whose jazz credentials are likewise impeccable.

To the above list of course must be added the superb bassist Marshall Wood who also happens to be Donna’s spouse as well as musical companion, which leads us to this program’s unusual component, a tribute to that giant among bass players for several decades, the archetypal Ray Brown, one of the greatest figures emerging from the bebop era, perhaps best known for his work with Dizzy Gillespie and Oscar Peterson. Ray passed away not many months after his appearance at UNH with Clark Terry in March of 2002. Witnesses will attest that experiencing Ray’s control of a rhythm section, from laid back subtlety to driving excitement, was truly a revelation. (No wonder Oscar tried to capture Ray’s essence in an ambitious poem which includes the following lines: “He plays with the ease of a tiger on stalk, His time resolute, devoid of any balk.....Countless thousands of bassists the whole world round, Work untold hours trying to emulate his sound”)

Marshall has invited fellow bassist Marty Ballou to join him in this endeavor. Listeners with gradually lengthening memories will recall his years with The Ritz, among many other things.

And all of this is happening on the fourth annual Tommy Gallant Memorial Scholarship Fund concert, itself an ongoing tribute of another sort emphasizing the musical values and associations of a treasured member of our extended musical family. Like Tom, Donna and Marshall have ties with this series reaching back to its origins; their continued support and loyalty are deeply appreciated, and the multiple dimensions of this particular program could not be more appropriate to the vision and spirit of their dear friend and the founder of the UNH Traditional Jazz Series, the late Dorothy Prescott.
Traditional Jazz Series

Donna Byrne, vocalist
Marshall Wood, bass
Tim Ray, piano
Jim Gwin, drums
and special guest
Marty Ballou, bass

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

2006-2007 SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>There’s Still More! The New Black Eagle Jazz Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>The Amazing Mays, Plus Two: The Bill Mays Trio</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 13</td>
<td>What it Means to be from New Orleans: The Nicholas Payton Quartet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 26</td>
<td>How Tasty the Nutmeg: The Galvanized Jazz Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Asian Outreach: Dave Pietro’s New York/Tokyo Connection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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OTHER SPECIAL JAZZ PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>Family Weekend Concert, UNH JAZZ BAND and COMBOS, Dave Seiler and Thomas Palance, directing. Strafford Room, Memorial Union Building, UNH.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>Harry Jones Memorial Concert with the Seacoast Big Band, Dave Seiler, directing with special guest, composer and saxophonist Mike Tomaro. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>Gala Jazz Concert, DR. CLARK TERRY, trumpet and flugelhorn, with guest artist, world-renown drummer/composer/arranger Dennis Mackrel and the UNH JAZZ BAND, Dave Seiler, director, Thomas Palance, guest director. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.</td>
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For tickets call (603)862-2290