Our Thirtieth Season

Our One Hundred Ninety-Second Program
2008-2009

Depth of Emotion:
Ed Saindon and Dave Liebman
Annual Tommy Gallant Memorial Scholarship Concert

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

8 p.m. Monday, February 2, 2009
Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, Durham, NH
The data of serious music, jazz as well as classical, are so rich and copious, and thoroughly imbedded in academic sources both institutional and personal, that there is inevitably a tendency to categorize. Over time the categories, however artificial, take on a prescriptive quality, and departures from the alleged norms are viewed with suspicion if not disdain. But imagination is antithetical to categorization, and thus in the hands of artists like Dave Liebman and Ed Saindon the unusual pairing of soprano sax and vibraphone is not an acrobatic experiment but an occasion for mutual creativity of the highest order. The very title of their CD, Depth of Emotion, certainly suggests something special, perhaps that two kindred spirits almost a decade apart in age and quite different performing backgrounds found that their vast stylistic knowledge and command of their respective instruments could mysteriously generate a unique and transcendent level of expression and communication—(at least this one listener thinks so!)

Instrumentalists tend not to talk very much about expression of emotion; it is too easy for it to seem to be an excuse rather than an explanation. Verbal articulation of the intangible is quite understandably not a usual part of a performer’s training, and of course listeners are bound to project their individual subjective inclinations into what they hear, but neither of these facts invalidates the reality of music as a bearer of emotion, no matter how inscrutable and resistant to linguistic clarification.

Dave Liebman (b. 1946) has been near the top of the Down Beat Critics Poll on soprano sax since 1973. He has made over 300 recordings, received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Grammy nominations, and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the Sibelius Academy in Finland. He majored in history at New York University, and although his early musical education was not jazz-oriented his intellectual and aesthetic curiosity soon led him to investigate much of the post-bop ferment so prevalent in the second half of the 20th century, being touched in various ways by such compelling figures as Lenny Tristano, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Hank Mobley, Chick Corea, and Elvin Jones, but in his own performing, as one observer perceptively noted “...his playing always maintains a repertoire balancing past, present, and future.” Dave has spent much time in Europe, is active as a writer and composer, and most especially as a dedicated teacher, having been one of the founders of the International Association of Schools of Jazz. (And he has a terrific website!)

Ed Saindon (b. 1954) is far less of a stranger in these parts, being based on one side or the other of the NH/MA border for a number of years. It is hard to believe that nine of those years have passed since his memorable tribute to Red Norvo on this series, with Howard Alden and Steve Novosel. Known particularly for his four-mallet technique, among his performing colleagues have been Ken Peplowski, Kenny Werner, Herb Pomeroy, and Dave McKenna. He, too, is active in the pedagogy of the art, teaching at Berklee, publishing a number of materials, and writing for the magazine of the International Percussive Arts Society.

Regular attendees will remember Matt Wilson’s superbly sensitive drumming with Lee Konitz on this series in the fall of 2003, as well as with Bill Mays three years later. And those already fortunate enough to own the Depth of Emotion CD just might have also recalled his appearance here in 1996 with Billy Novick and Herb Pomeroy.

Duke Ellington is often said to be “beyond category” as an individual. However, there are particular creative situations in the jazz tradition where the coalescence of unique personalities deserves that same description. And we lucky ones are all here to give testimony.
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

Program essays from the entire UNH Traditional Jazz Series now can be accessed on the internet.
http://www.izaak.unh.edu/nhjtj

2008-2009 SCHEDULE

September 22: So Much More to Say: The New Black Eagle Jazz Band

October 13: Four Brothers Redux: Harry Allen’s Four Others

November 10: Bob’s Big Band Binge: Bob Wilber

February 2: Depth of Emotion: Ed Saindon and Dave Liebman

March 2: Where the Guitar Now Is At: Russell Malone Quartet

April 13: Bria and Jim’s Borderline Jazz Band

OTHER SPECIAL JAZZ PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

October 24: Family Weekend Concert, UNH JAZZ BAND and COMBOS, Dave Seiler, directing. Strafford Room, Memorial Union Building, UNH.

January 20: Harry Jones Memorial Concert with the Seacoast Big Band, Dave Seiler, directing. A program of Harry’s favorite music by Count Basie, Woody Herman and Maynard Ferguson. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.

January 28: Faculty Jazz Ensemble. Johnson Theatre, PCAC. Free and open to the public.

March 15: Gala Jazz Concert, DR. CLARK TERRY, trumpet and flugelhorn, and guest artists. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH.

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For tickets call (603)862-2290