

T R A D I T I O N A L
Jazz
S E R I E S

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

OUR THIRTY-FIRST PROGRAM

DICK HYMAN
HISTORIC PIANO

SPONSORED BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC,
AND THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
LIBRARY OF TRADITIONAL JAZZ

8 P.M. MONDAY
NOVEMBER 12, 1984
STRAFFORD ROOM
MEMORIAL UNION
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE ARTIST

DICK HYMAN

Ah, the woes and travails of the jazz pianist. His role differs with the size and composition of each group in which he performs, especially the rhythm section; his accompanying style must adjust to every soloistic personality; he must agree on the chord changes with all parties; he cannot even stand up during his solos, which all too often seem to be of low priority. But sometimes, unlike his peers on other instruments, he gets to be the whole show. The only problem is that he has to expand his activity to include everything that everyone else usually does, and no less an authority than Gunther Schuller has pointed out that this is an awesome task. In his scholarly tome *Early Jazz* Schuller vividly depicts the cumbersome process of dealing with melody, harmony, and rhythm simultaneously with just two hands, and observes that the explicit definition of the "beat" in jazz creates complications not present in most classical piano music. To paraphrase a famous source, though many may feel called, few have got the chops.

Dick Hyman is one who has them, and much else as well. In his thirty-year career he has excelled as pianist, organist, composer, arranger, and conductor. A native of New York (b. 1927), he received early training at Julliard and from Teddy Wilson, certainly a not inauspicious start! A mere sampling of his interests and accomplishments reveals membership in the Benny Goodman Sextet, recordings of the music of Scott Joplin, Jelly Roll Morton, and James P. Johnson, theater organ and cornet duets with Ruby Braff, performances of his own works with the Baltimore, Austin, and Indianapolis Symphonies, touring the Soviet Union as conductor of the New York Jazz Repertory Company in the music of Louis Armstrong, orchestrating the hit musical "Sugar Babies", numerous magazine and journal articles, and extensive work in radio and television (two Emmys), film (Woody Allen), and ballet (Twyla Tharp).

Thus it is within the realm of allowable exaggeration to describe Dick as the quintessential 20th-century American musician, not just because he responds so well to demands in so many areas of the art, but because in so doing he remains absorbed in the vital historical traditions that have influenced so profoundly if not always recognizably the development of those very areas. Dick's individuality as a performer is based on

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as extensive knowledge as one person can possess of the various dialects of jazz and their etymology. It is of the very nature of the piano that it can provide an experience both total and personal, and it is of the very nature of the historical record that pianists have often been blessed with a fuller musical education in their formative years than players on the other jazz instruments. The pianist who builds on that technical advantage while deepening his perspective on the remarkable human creativity that has taken place independent of formal norms provides a dimension to the jazz experience which itself is a blessing bestowed on his audience. Welcome and thanks, Dick Hyman.

Tape recorders and cameras are not permitted due to contractual arrangements. Your cooperation is requested.

THE SERIES

The UNH Traditional Jazz Series began in 1979. 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

THE SCHEDULE

September 17	Rent Party Revellers
October 15	Doc Cheatham and Clarence Hutchenrider — with the TJS Quartet
November 12	Dick Hyman: Historic Piano
December 3	White Heat Swing Orchestra
February 11	Jack Bumer: "No Easy Pieces"
March 11	Ray Smith's Decades of Jazz
April 15	Ruby Braff — with the TJS Quartet
May 13	Original Salty Dogs with Carol Leigh