UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OUR FIFTIETH PROGRAM

RAY SMITH'S PARAMOUNT JAZZ BAND

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

8 PM MONDAY
APRIL 13, 1987
STRAFFORD ROOM
MEMORIAL UNION
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
THE ARTISTS

THE PARAMOUNT JAZZ BAND

Although one might question which quantitative milestones in our lives are truly worthy of celebration, most would agree that the fiftieth of anything should receive more than nominal notice, especially when, unlike birthdays, the events in a concert series come into being through human effort and conviction, rather than the less personal forces of nature. Thus as we enjoy tonight's performance, "golden" perhaps in more than one way, we might reflect a bit on the commitment and generosity represented by its very existence, and more fundamentally, the vision underlying the whole venture.

A look at our basically changeless back page provides a quick reminder. The first paragraph states the intent simply and directly, and the schedule printed below is a microcosm of the entire eight years, revealing diversity at several levels—types of performing medium, nature of the artists' historical and geographical visibility, broad generational differences—yet all honoring a common heritage.

It would be both presumptuous and discriminatory to here single out fond personal memories, but some categories may suffice: 1) near-octogenarians playing with the vitality and imagination usually associated with youth, 2) ensembles of "traditional" instrumentation and format demonstrating nonetheless the variety of impact that can emanate from separately constituted mixtures of strong musical personalities, 3) perhaps above all the sight and sound of younger musicians mining the neglected riches of the past in both style and substance, at no cost to their own contemporaneity.

And we must note also the role of the audience, an attribute of this series consistently commented upon by the performers. Jazz partakes of a number of social and functional roles, but there are times when it deserves just being listened to, even by people in mildly uncomfortable chairs, without refreshments; such devoted attention has been deeply appreciated.

Ray Smith's Paramount Jazz Band is particularly appropriate for this occasion; it includes New England-based artists both familiar and new to us, it emphasizes collective improvisation with a somewhat unique and unpredictable variety of instruments, and its span of ages sometimes extends over forty years. (Tonight's combination is contained at about thirty-five, but the youngest member is actually the musical quarterback!) The band's repertoire is invigoratingly old; we will hear very little of which much of our audience will be cognizant, but most of its was probably written before the vast majority of us were operational, indicating how unnecessarily limited the "standard" repertoire tends to be, whatever its virtues. Despite a variegated mix of reed colorations the group uses no arrangements, and we should be often reminded of those exciting junctures where New Orleans and more structured idioms reached accommodation.

Ray himself is, of course, Boston's voice of traditional jazz on WGBH, and like the ubiquitous Jimmy has appeared on a number of our programs. Jeff and Chuck have also performed here previously, while we are welcoming Roy, Robin, and Steve for the first time; their other pursuits range widely from woodworking to computer science.
Two distinguished performers from our earlier concerts have subsequently passed on, and thus we dedicate this fiftieth program to the memory of Vic Dickenson and Don Ewell, and all of the other creators of this singular art form who have shaped our tastes, enriched our lives, and are no longer here to share with us their labors of the spirit; it is they who have truly made this series possible and necessary.

THE PARAMOUNT JAZZ BAND

JEFF HUGHES ........................................ Cornet
ROY SUPERIOR ........................................ Clarinet, Soprano
STEVE WRIGHT ....................................... Reeds
ROBIN VERDIER ...................................... Piano
CHUCK STEWART ..................................... Tuba
JIMMY MAZZY ......................................... Banjo, Vocals

and

RAY SMITH ............................................ Drums, Leader

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

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<td>Butch Thompson—Jimmy Mazzy Quartet</td>
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