UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OUR FIFTY-FOURTH PROGRAM

THE
PARADISE CITY
JAZZ BAND

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

8 PM MONDAY
DECEMBER 7, 1987
STRAFFORD ROOM
MEMORIAL UNION
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
We hope that there is something musically special about each of our events, but tonight that quality is further enhanced by geographical considerations. Among the announced priorities of this series from its start has been a commitment to New England artists, and although we have tapped the resources of the West Coast and several intervening locations, the Paradise City Jazz Band is the first from western Massachusetts to grace our stage.

The PCJB describes itself as playing an "eclectic mix of jazz and swing styles from the 1920's, '30s, and '40s... well-grounded in the music of Ellington, Armstrong, Beiderbecke, Basie...". The most immediately arresting attribute of the group is the relationship of its instrumentation to this repertoire; the latter would seem to demand more than the former can supply, given the conspicuous absence of a reed instrument. However, any such apprehensions are swiftly and dramatically dispelled; the imaginative arranging of Tom Mclung and Dave Pinardi combine with the improvisatory sensitivity of each individual to generate results both satisfying and refreshing.

The key to this magic is the subtle use of the melodic and ensemble possibilities of the guitar and piano, a sort of "sleight of ear" (!), done with convincing musical judgement. (This writer recalls first-hand experience in the 1950s with a Dixieland-oriented unit where Defense Dept. priorities caused the replacement of the trumpet player by a guitarist; whatever transgressions against traditional morality may have occurred thereby pale in light of more recent public usages of the "lead guitar", present company excluded.) Moreover, the interchange of banjo with guitar and tuba with string bass provides both contrast in color and authenticity in flavor. All in all, we are constantly reminded of the congruity of the New Orleans and swing idioms, whatever their delectable differences.

The band's name refers to Northampton, Mass., its home base, and doubtless has some mystical significance unknown to us here on the seacoast. More importantly, since its formation in 1982 the PCJB has been reaching ever-widening audiences in New England and New York state, last year giving 150 performances. This has happened because of the group's capacity and eagerness to communicate in a variety of settings—concerts, clubs, dances, parties, cruises, coffee houses, educational programs—, thus demonstrating that this music can be responded to in numerous ways. Events have included dates at the Sticky Wicket, Worceters's El Morocco, the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Channel 57 in Springfield, and the Presidential Inauguration at Smith College. And early this year their first recording, Blowin' the Blues Away, was issued on Paraphone Records.

Every member of this ensemble devotes most of his time to the music profession, and this commitment includes espousal of the values and vitality of a performing tradition often thought to be not open to fresh approaches. They engage in their art with enthusiasm, originality, and above all, love. The Paradise City Jazz Band is truly a band for all seasons, and we welcome them to UNH with advance thanks for the very fact of their salubrious enterprise.
THE PARADISE CITY JAZZ BAND

DAVE PINARDI – Comet & trumpet
JIM FRYER – Trombone
TOM McCLUNG – Piano
DAVE HUXTABLE – Banjo & guitar
RICHARD DOWNS – Tuba & string bass
PHIL ORI – Drums

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 14  Dave Whitney Quintet
October 19    Mike Markavitch: Solo Piano
November 16   Bob Wilber Quintet
December 7    Paradise City Jazz Band
February 8    Jay McShann & Ralph Sutton: Two Planos
March 7       Jimmy Mazzy & Friends Explore the Banjo
April 11      Red Rose Ragtime Band