TRADITIONAL JAZZ SERIES

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OUR FIFTY-EIGHTH PROGRAM

THE BOURBON STREET PARADERS

DIRECTED BY LEE CHILDS

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

8 PM MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 12, 1988
STRAFFORD ROOM
MEMORIAL UNION
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
THE ARTISTS

THE BOURBON STREET PARADERS

The beginning of the tenth season of the UNH Traditional Jazz Series is an occasion for reflection, as was our fiftieth concert at the end of 1986-87. We now miss the guiding hand of the initiator of the series, the late Dorothy Prescott, but rejoice in the fact that her vision and generosity created the New Hampshire Library of Traditional Jazz and have made possible its future development on the UNH campus. We look forward to the events of the coming year and their stimulating mix of artists—the broad generational and geographical representation continues an established commitment not always easy to honor, given the realities of scheduling. And externally we seem to detect a salutary interest in traditional jazz in somewhat unlikely climes; certain elements of the press now attempt to treat significant jazz figures from a more substantive cultural perspective than the commercial or socio/pop, and a number of young performers are discovering and approaching the music in a manner more analogous to Mozart than to Elvis Presley.

The Bourbon Street Paraders remind us by their very name of where the music comes from, and by their performance of where it can go. The heritage of style and substance transcends place and time; the improvisatory impulse and individuality of voice are right from the source, as is the sheer joyful energy of the playing. And the particular combination of instruments demonstrates that musical compatibility is more important than adherence to partially mythological norms.

It is refreshing to be able to start the year’s programs with a group headed by a New England artist new to our series. Lee Childs is a central force in the thriving and widely respected musical activity on Cape Cod. Highly versatile, he appears as often in the intimate context of his own trio as in the more expansive atmosphere of the Paraders and other ensembles. (It is said that his tennis is held in equally high regard, a condition that we sedentary types view a bit in awe; perhaps the diversity of his education at Cornell and Berklee is the key!) Also, like so many others of our guests, Lee is an enthusiastic participant in programs to introduce jazz to public school students of all ages.

Bob Connors is well-known as the leader of the Yankee Rhythm Kings, noted for their vigorous re-creation of the King Oliver idiom. Bob’s own ebullient playing is rich with historical awareness and classical technique as well. Stu Gunn is also a member of the Yankee Rhythm Kings, and leads his own group regularly at the Edaville Railroad—thus expands the jazz audience! Michel Lavigniac is in fact a Parisian, and is further blessed to have played with Sidney Bechet, a most unchallengeable credential. And Gary Johnson demonstrates that relative youth is no obstacle to intense involvement with this kind of music—or to drumming with the Artie Shaw Band!

Lee Childs and the Bourbon Street Paraders inform a traditional idiom with freshness, vigor, and personality. We welcome them and our audience to our tenth season of devotion to those very qualities.
THE BOURBON STREET PARADERS

LEE CHILDS - Clarinet & leader
BOB CONNORS - Trombone
MICHEL LAVIGNIAC - Banjo
STU GUNN - Tuba
GARY JOHNSON - 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 12  Bourbon Street Paraders
October 10  Benny Carter
November 21  Hot Antic Jazz Band
February 6  Harry Allen & Randy Reinhart
March 6  Dave McKenna
April 10  Jimmy Mazzy & Friends