TRADITIONAL JAZZ SERIES

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OUR SIXTY-THIRD PROGRAM

JIMMY MAZZY
AND FRIENDS

JIMMY MAZZY  Banjo & vocals
JEFF HUGHES  Cornet
BILLY NOVICK  Clarinet
ROBIN VERDIER  Piano
ELI NEWBERGER  Tuba

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

8 PM MONDAY
APRIL 10, 1989
STRAFFORD ROOM
MEMORIAL UNION
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
As we reach the end of the tenth season of our series, it is a good time to recall a bit of its background, and to observe how appropriate it is to once again have Jimmy Mazzy give us convincing musical testimony as to the success of its implementation.

When the UNH Traditional Jazz Series was initiated in 1979 by the late Dorothy Prescott, among her convictions was belief in the continued viability of jazz styles clearly rooted in the basic tradition, and in the necessity that performers drawn to this means of expression be recognized encouraged. Tonight we witness one format for the realization of the foregoing, hardly new to our audiences (or Jimmy’s!) — the gathering of artists of empathy and compatibility in a fresh combination for purposes of collective adventure, infectious and exciting to players and listeners alike.

One could easily lose track of Jimmy’s appearances here (this is the eighth) because each has been in a different setting; however, they are always occasions for the revelation of deeply-felt content as well as joyful spontaneity, and as such they are the very essence of the traditional jazz experience. The unwary should be forewarned that the banjo in Jimmy’s hands is a formidable-enough musical weapon to require registration in several states; its power is matched only by that of his voice and the rare lyrical treasures it so eloquently discloses. (The national audience of A Prairie Home Companion can so verify!)

For all we know, Jimmy’s complete set of musical friends may extend to infinity, but the immediate configuration suggests at the very least a triumph of his artistic intuition. Jeff Hughes may presently be the busiest cornetist in New England, working among others with the New Yankee Rhythm Kings and Ray Smith’s Paramount Jazz Band (as well as on his Ph.D. in marine biology). Robin Verdier arranges and performs for a number of groups in addition to duties as a computer scientist at MIT. Eli Newberger energizes the New Black Eagle Jazz Band, as well as the entire regional medical and political community — and has a remarkable duo recording with Jimmy in his resumé. And we are pleased to welcome to UNH for the first time the ubiquitous Billy Novick, also a Black Eagle and particularly noted for his recordings with guitarist Guy Van Duser — his woodwind versatility encompasses even the penny-whistle!

(Seasonal/cultural note: Film and/or baseball buffs have experienced, perhaps unknowingly, the artistry of Jimmy, Billy, and Robin through their participation in the actualization of Mason Daring’s score for the soundtrack of Eight Men Out — they get around more than the base paths, and we are fortunate to be among those that they do indeed touch!)
Spring may be the close of our concert season, but it signals rebirth, and makes us ponder beginnings rather than endings. We certainly look forward to the continuation of this series in the spirit developed through our own decade of establishing a minor tradition, and by the start of the next academic year we will be able to announce some specific plans for the other activities of the New Hampshire Library of Traditional Jazz which will be carried out by UNH through Mrs. Prescott's bequest; at this point we can happily report that her record collection and other holdings are being organized in the Dimond Library for future access.

Finally, we wish to thank our performers and audiences, past and present, for these years of enthusiastic participation and support. As Jimmy and his Friends personify, this is how the tradition is made to live.

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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