UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OUR SIXTY-FIFTH PROGRAM

PEANUTS
HUCKO

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

8 PM MONDAY
OCTOBER 30, 1989
STRAFFORD ROOM
MEMORIAL UNION
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
THE ARTISTS

PEANUTS HUCKO

Sometimes in moments in nostalgia, vanity, or exasperation, we of an older generation are apt to inform errant youth that, in reference to the particulars of the real world, we have “been there”. Tonight, in all humility we meet someone who insofar as the possible range of experiences in traditional jazz is concerned can make that statement with impunity; who else do you know that has been both a regular member of Louis Armstrong's All Stars and the director of the Glenn Miller Orchestra?! All of which tempts us pedantic classroom types to observe that to those whose limited reflection on history (jazz or otherwise) causes them to place people in neat categories, Peanuts Hucko represents a refreshing antidote.

Michael Andrew Hucko was born in Syracuse, NY, in 1918. He studied with private teachers, moved to New York City in 1939, and began a career that has taken him from the larger swing era aggregations of Will Bradley, Ray McKinley, Benny Goodman, and Miller’s great Army Air Force Band to the smaller combos of Jack Teagarden, Eddie Condon, Armstrong, and the World’s Greatest Jazzband, flavored with studio work at CBS and ABC, a stint with Lawrence Welk, and recording in Japan; he leaves for appearances in Europe immediately after this concert. Legend has it that around 1940 Will Bradley fired him because, although his tenor sax playing was satisfactory, he had certain inadequacies on clarinet(!); apparently this condition was subsequently remedied, since Peanuts succeeded Edmund Hall with Louis (1957) and none other than Buddy DeFranco in front of the Miller band (1974),—and the sagacious Leonard Feather has proclaimed for encyclopedical eternity his “...undiminished stature as one of the best clarinetists in the Benny Goodman mold”.

Jazz players tend to be a bit peripatetic, making the world seem smaller than geography dictates. Among those Peanuts encountered in his travels before settling in Denver some years back was cornetist Dick Creeden, now a long-established figure in the New England scene. Tonight Dick renews an old musical acquaintance as he did with Bud Freeman on this series a few years ago.

The Tom Gallant Trio perhaps has done more than any other group to keep jazz consistently alive and healthy in the Seacoast area and elsewhere; the collective wisdom and sensitivity of Tom, Jim, and Les, both as performers and educators, is copious and exemplary.

Fate has conspired in surprising ways in connection with this event. Last summer, soon after we were able to announce that Peanuts had accepted our invitation to visit UNH, PBS viewers got a rare glimpse of him in a Louis Armstrong home movie segment shown on American Masters; a few days later this writer accidentally found an example of Peanuts “sitting-in” on a WMEX radio broadcast from Boston’s old Storyville night club in 1951, this on a home-made tape in the collection of the New Hampshire Library of Traditional Jazz. Such items may not be monumental in significance, but they humanize and de-mystify an era seemingly remote in time, but still vibrantly contemporary to those continuing its art.

Peanuts Hucko has “been there”—and much to our edification, still is.
T R A D I T I O N A L
J A Z Z
S E R I E S

P E A N U T S
H U C K O

PEANUTS HUCKO
DICK CREEDEN
TOM GALLANT
JIM HOWE
LES HARRIS, Sr.

Clarinet
Cornet
Plano
String Bass
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 11 New Black Eagle Jazz Band
October 30 Peanuts Hucko & Tom Gallant Trio
November 27 Gray Sargent Trio
January 29 Milt Hinton Quartet featuring Andy McGhee
February 26 Howard Alden Trio
March 26 Butch Thompson Trio
April 30 Vince Giordano's New Orleans Nighthawks