UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OUR SIXTY-SIXTH PROGRAM

THE
GRAY SARGENT
TRIO

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

8 PM MONDAY
NOVEMBER 27, 1989
STRAFFORD ROOM
MEMORIAL UNION
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
THE ARTISTS

THE GRAY SARGENT TRIO

People unfamiliar with the content and history of this series (there still must be some) may perceive its title to reflect far less variety than is actually the case. Just a glance at this semester’s programs reveals the range, and the situation is similar next semester. The house of tradition has many mansions, large and small, but one of the shared foundations is an attitude toward improvisatory expression which is at once individual and collective, imaginative and coherent, ineffable and communicative. Quite by a fortuitous accident of scheduling, our first three concerts this year illustrate the unfolding of this mystery over successive stylistic generations—the venerable New Orleans idiom of the New Black Eagles, the swing era conception of Peanuts Hucko, and now the contemporary approach of younger musicians embracing the tradition from the perspective of a wholly different set of formative experiences and aesthetic choices.

The earliest practitioners on these three instruments might well be bemused at the very prospect of this event; in effect, a group which some years ago would have been considered to be simply three-quarters of a rhythm section, sustaining an entire concert—unheard of! Yet, irrespective of the formidable personal talents of these particular performers, it is testimony to the significance of jazz as serious art that these instruments have developed within that tradition to be such impressive bearers of musical substance.

Gray Sargent, Marshall Wood, and Chuck Laire are avid students of the people and processes that have produced this result. They listen—to history, to each other, to the Muse—and they bring forth music of classical refinement that nonetheless communicates, excites, and just plain swings. The melody lines sweep, the harmonic language is rich, the dialogue is intense, but as all of this transpires, the listener consistently will find him/herself taking Count Basie’s advice to “pat your foot”!

Gray, Marshall, and Chuck have each graced our stage many times in the past, in a highly varied number of settings which indicate their individual flexibility. Despite their youth (a reference monumentally relative) their combined experience ranges from Big Joe Turner to Anita O’Day, from Benny Carter to Illinois Jacquet, from Ruby Braff to Dizzy Gillespie, ad infinitum. Gray himself performed at both the Newport and Kool Jazz Festivals this past year, and recently recorded with Dave McKenna.

It is certainly appropriate to note that the founder of the New Hampshire Library of Traditional Jazz, the late Dorothy Prescott, sponsored an LP by Gray and Marshall (TJ Records—still available!) as a demonstration of her conviction that the tradition would continue in good hands. What better week than Thanksgiving to recognize that article of faith and welcome the Gray Sargent Trio to UNH, “one more time”!
TRADITIONAL JAZZ SERIES

THE GRAY SARGENT TRIO

GRAY SARGENT  Guitar
MARSHALL WOOD  String Bass
CHUCK LAIRE  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

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<td>New Black Eagle Jazz Band</td>
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