UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OUR SIXTY-EIGHTH PROGRAM

THE HOWARD ALDEN TRIO

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

8 PM MONDAY
FEBRUARY 26, 1990
STRAFFORD ROOM
MEMORIAL UNION
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
THE ARTISTS

THE HOWARD ALDEN TRIO

Tonight is one of those events in our series which its late founder would have found personally most fulfilling — appropriately so, since Dorothy Prescott passed away just two years ago this month. What would have delighted her so much is the introduction to our audience of two artists in their early 30s, the freshness and integrity of whose musicianship is matched only by their devotion to the tradition which inspired this venture in the first place; she would have been further pleased to see and hear them joined by another performer from their generation whose career she had encouraged early on. And to make matters more interesting, their particular combination of instruments is one of those rarities which makes even the more seasoned and cynical among us believe that there is in fact something new under the sun (other than the often debatable blessings of electronic technology!).

Howard Alden and Dan Barrett are both native southern Californians who have forsaken that alleged storybook environment for the steely realities of New York, following a magnetism which itself evokes images of the earlier days of jazz. In this, their first visit to New Hampshire, they will demonstrate that the truths of tradition in no way imply the presence of standardized instrumentation but rather the spontaneity and compatibility of skilled improvisers in command of their materials and mediums.

Howard is part of that mainstream of guitarists stemming from Charlie Christian; he cites Barney Kessel as a special influence. On the other hand, unlike most of this persuasion, he started on banjo, something he still honors. Despite his relative youth, Howard has had strong associations with a number of names familiar to our long-term clientele — Ruby Braff, Kenny Davern, and most unusually, a stint with the venerable Red Norvo before Red was rejoined by Tal Farlow prior to their first concert here in 1981. And one of Howard’s advocates is the great Joe Williams, good company indeed!

Dan Barrett is an astute student of the richly varied heritage of his instrument, with extensive ties in the venues of collective improvisation — the Widespread Jazz Band being a good example. In addition, his breadth of musicianship led him to Benny Goodman’s last big band, and he and Howard both play in Buck Clayton’s big band, that unique undertaking which the illustrious Basie alumnus started in his 70s!

Howard and Dan are joined by one of the stalwarts of our series as well as of the Boston scene, Marshall Wood (replacing Frank Tate who is recording in New York.) Marshall was last on stage here with Gary Sargent in November, and it will be a kick to hear him interact with yet another outstanding guitar player.

Tradition manifests itself in a number of ways nowadays—sometimes through direct continuity, sometimes with new generations rediscovering old ones, sometimes with a searching-out of roots that results in seeming contradictions. But it all flows from the glory of the music and the respect it begets among those who live with it. Howard, Dan, and Marshall enrich us with their response to this inspiration, and the future looks better and better.
THE
HOWARD ALDEN
TRIO

HOWARD ALDEN  Guitar
DAN BARRETT  Trombone
MARSHALL WOOD  Bass

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