HAROLD
ASHBY
tenor sax

with
DAVE TREFETHEN &
THE TOM GALLANT TRIO

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

8 PM MONDAY
NOVEMBER 30, 1992
STRAFFORD ROOM
MEMORIAL UNION BUILDING
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
THE ARTIST

HAROLD ASHBY

One of those special qualities that distinguishes jazz from other instrumental idioms is its traditional emphasis on uniqueness of individual voice, an element returning from the African side of its parentage. This has particular manifestations on the tenor saxophone because it has a less-defined "classical" frame of reference than most other instruments, making the initial point of departure more open to personal inclination. The listener's ear can usually identify a Coleman Hawkins, Bud Freeman, Lester Young, Ben Webster, Flip Phillips, Stan Getz, or Illinois Jacquet simply by his sound, independent of the notes played.

Probably the artist in the whole history of jazz who best understood the aesthetic potential of this phenomenon was Duke Ellington. His concept of the jazz orchestra itself as a compositional medium was not based on transferable notational specifics but rather on the sounds and styles indigenous to each of his performers; for example, solos on a given instrument by three different players in the same piece will have the actual effect of three different instruments.

Harold Ashby exemplifies all of the above. He was born in 1925 in Kansas City, a locale second to none in nurturing fundamental blues-based swing -- after all, even the great Count Basie was more identified with K.C. than his native N.J.. In 1940 he heard the Ellington band for the first time and was overwhelmed by Ben Webster; little did he know that Ben would become his mentor, friend and room-mate for a time!

For years Harold freelanced in Chicago and New York, especially with bands having a strong blues orientation; he recorded with Jay McSham, Willie Dixon and Memphis Slim. At the same time, he was exploring and absorbing the rich heritage of his instrument, developing his own solidly grounded musical personality. In July of 1968 he joined the Ellington band at the Newport Jazz Festival, and remained until February 1975, almost a year after Duke's death; he proudly and humbly cherished those years surrounded by the likes of Johnny Hodges, Paul Gonsalves, Russell Procope and Harry Carney. He has remained in New York, and in subsequent years played with such luminaries as Sy Oliver, Kenny Davern (a recent visitor), Joe Temperley -- and Benny Goodman!

Tom Gallant, Jim Howe, and Les Harris, Sr. need no introduction to this audience, having been the sine qua non of the regional jazz scene for more years than tact allows us to enumerate. And it is a profound pleasure to welcome Dave Trefethen to this series for the first time; he, too, occupies a notable place in the history of our art in the Seacoast area, and despite his impeccable taste as a guitarist, will be known to many as an equally skilled bassist with the Paul Broadnax Trio.

Harold Ashby has a remarkable legacy to share with us and his colleagues. Treasure it, and as the season reminds us, be thankful.
HAROLD ASHBY - Tenor sax
DAVE TREFETHEN - Guitar
TOM GALLANT - Piano
JIM HOWE - Bass
LES HARRIS, SR. - 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

October 5  Summit Reunion: Bob Wilber and Kenny Davern
November 2  Mike Markaverich
November 30 Harold Ashby
February 1  Paradise City Jazz Band
March 8  Donna Byrne Quintet
April 5  Jimmy Mazzy, Eli Newberger, & Friends
May 3  Condon Connection