UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OUR EIGHTY-EIGHTH PROGRAM

THE PARADISE CITY JAZZ BAND

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

8 PM MONDAY
FEBRUARY 1, 1993
STRAFFORD ROOM
MEMORIAL UNION BUILDING
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
THE ARTISTS

THE PARADISE CITY JAZZ BAND

The confluence of the new year, semester, and national administration is as good an excuse as any for a moment of reflection. Immediately we remind ourselves that the person who began this series in 1979 and whose largesse insures its continuation - Dorothy Cooke Prescott - passed away five years ago this month, and that a brief comparison of conditions past and present would be appropriate.

When this series began, the term "traditional jazz" was all too often associated with sentimental nostalgia and escapism rather than imagination and vitality; there even was the threat that younger musicians would lose contact with tradition as a living language and relegate its values and idiom to the realm of antiquarian irrelevance. Journalistic criticism mirrored this condition of neglect.

My, how things have changed. The critics now fear that too much attention is being paid the heritage, and that the new generation of artists is in fact constrained by it at the cost of spontaneous exploration; in fact, the term "neotraditionalist" has entered our descriptive vocabulary, being applied to performers as different from one another as Wynton Marsalis and Harry Connick, Jr. Whatever the merits and longevity of this argument and the modest role of this series in its genesis, Dot Prescott would rejoice in its appearance and relish its nuances, to which she would have colorfully added.

The Paradise City Jazz Band is a perfect example of the positive dimensions of this somewhat esoteric discussion. Here is a group that describes itself as "well-grounded in the music of Ellington, Armstrong, Beiderbecke, and Basie" and yet which approaches this mix of small combo and big band sources with a freshness of outlook hardly restricted by such retrospection. Their instrumentation itself both reflects and requires originality, with its absence of a reed, and interchangeability within the rhythm section. As with the Howard Alden - Dan Barrett Quintet, even the highly experienced listening ear is "fooled" by the fullness and colorations of sonority. And the relationship of the arranged and improvised is exemplary in both concept and content.

The PCJB was formed in 1982 in Northampton, Mass., and performed on this series in December of 1987, just ten weeks before Dot's death. At that time we noted the variety of locales and settings in New England and New York in which the band had appeared in its first five years. Now, a similar length of time has passed, and we are delighted to observe that the PCJB has extended its orbit to festivals on the West Coast, not to mention Scotland, Wales, southern France - and Australia! Congratulations, gang!

We proudly welcome the Paradise City Jazz Band back to UNH; they will vivify our renewal of spirit, as well as perhaps explain to us simple country folk why the linkage of the words "paradise" and "city" is not oxymoronic!
THE PARADISE CITY JAZZ BAND

DAVE PINARDI - Cornet & trumpet
TIM ATHERTON - Trombone
TOM McCLUNG - Piano
DAVE HUXTABLE - Banjo & guitar
RICHARD DOWNS - Tuba & string bass
PHIL ORI - 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