



Our Thirty-Third Season

Concert #206

2011-2012

The David Pietro/ Jeff Coffin Quintet

**Sponsored by the Department of Music and the
New Hampshire Library of Traditional Jazz**

**8 p.m. Monday, September 19, 2011
Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, Durham, NH**

THE ARTISTS

Program Notes

Good Evening. Welcome to the 33rd season of the UNH Traditional Jazz Series and to a special performance by two longtime friends, Dave Pietro and Jeff Coffin, two of the foremost saxophonists in jazz today, who first met at UNH over 25 years ago. They will be ably assisted by Mark Shilansky on piano, John Hunter on bass and Les Harris, Jr. on drums, also known as the UNH Faculty Jazz Trio.

The commonalities between Pietro and Coffin are many. Both met while attending the UNH Summer Youth Music School in the early eighties with both playing in the 1982 SYMS Honors Jazz Band which was directed by Dave Seiler and which was one of the most potent high school age jazz bands ever assembled on the campus. Pietro would be the first to enroll at the university, entering in the fall of '82 after graduating from Algonquin Regional HS in Northborough, MA where his interest in jazz was encouraged by his band director, the late Dennis Wrenn, one of the finest public school music teachers who inspired so many young people through his dedication and commitment to music education.

Coffin would come to UNH a year later after graduating from Spaulding HS in Rochester, NH in 1983. Coffin's interest in jazz was nurtured as well by his band director, Doug Patch, a fine saxophonist in his own right. During his senior year, Coffin also had the distinction of playing in the first ever NH All-State Jazz Band. Upon enrolling at UNH, Coffin and Pietro would arrange to room together and both would sit side-by-side that year, playing the tenor sax books in the UNH Jazz Band, further solidifying and expanding their friendship while at the same time, turning each other on to a variety of musical styles and performers. Both would travel to Europe with the UNHJB, Pietro in 1982, and Coffin in 1985. And both would eventually follow each other to the jazz studies program at North Texas State University to complete their studies.

It was after each completed their careers at NTSU that their paths diverged. Pietro would relocate to New York City where he would establish a career as a free lance performer, composer, arranger and educator performing with a diverse array of artists including Toshiko Akiyoshi, Maynard Ferguson, Maria Schneider, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Ken Werner, and Dave Holland. Pietro has released several recordings under his own name that display diverse musical interests from straight ahead jazz to the music of Stevie Wonder to the music of Brazil and India.

Coffin's path would take him to Nashville where he quickly established himself as a top call musician on that city's vibrant music scene. It was there that Coffin, who believes in the concept of all music being one music, met a like-minded musician in banjo player Bela Fleck. Coffin would go on to be an integral player in Fleck's band, known as the Flecktones. Along the way, Coffin would also play with a variety of artists such as keyboard player Jeff Babko, drummer Vinnie Colaiuta, and Coffin's current gig with the renowned Dave Matthews Band, one of the foremost bands on the contemporary pop music scene. Like Pietro, Coffin is also active in the jazz education arena and is an endorsing artist for Yamaha Saxophones. When he's not performing for other leaders, Coffin leads his own group, called The Mu'tet, which explores a variety of world music grooves in a jazz context.

There has been a long legacy of strong jazz saxophonists at UNH going back to Charlie Jennison's years on campus in the late '60's. Others include Greg Balfany, Ken Galvin, Billy Humphrey, Marc Laforce, Jim Pisano, Travis Sullivan, Steve Guerra, Bill Jones and in recent years, Jon Ludwig and Andrew Riordan. So Pietro and Coffin were an integral link in the chain during their time on the UNH campus.

Despite the diversity of influences that both musicians have, Pietro and Coffin have maintained a strong connection with the jazz tradition while not being overly bound by it. Both bring a high degree of integrity, joy and humor to their approach to improvised music and both bring their varied experiences, both individual and shared, to the stage to share with all who come to listen. This evening, they'll give us a look into their world, a world of common interests rooted in diverse music and a strong friendship. They'll be taking us all on a remarkable musical journey. Enjoy the ride!



The David Pietro/ Jeff Coffin Quintet

David Pietro, saxophone

Jeff Coffin, saxophone

Mark Shilansky, piano

John Hunter, bass

Les Harris Jr., drums

*Recordings and photographs are not permitted due to contractual arrangements.
Please turn off cell phones and beepers. Your cooperation is requested.*

THE SERIES

The UNH Traditional Jazz Series began in 1979 through the imaginative vision and generous commitment of the late Dorothy C. Prescott. 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 – Alan Chase

Production – David Seiler

2011-2012 SCHEDULE

September 19: David Pietro/ Jeff Coffin Quintet

October 17: Kenny Barron Trio

November 14: Greg Hopkins Quintet

January 30: Wolverine Jazz Band

February 27: Matt Wilson's Arts and Crafts

April 2: Howard Alden Trio

OTHER SPECIAL JAZZ PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

September 13: Faculty Jazz Sextet. Johnson Theatre, PCAC. Free and open to the public.

January 24: Harry Jones Memorial Concert with the Seacoast Big Band, Dave Seiler, director and special guest composer/arranger Michael Mossman. Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH. For tickets call (603)862-2290.