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Erika Mantz
UNH Media Relations

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Contact: [Erika Mantz](#)
603-862-1567
UNH Media Relations

September 24, 2007

DURHAM, N.H. – The University of New Hampshire Library and its New Hampshire Library of Traditional Jazz will present the final three episodes in the six-part video and discussion series entitled "Looking at: Jazz, America's Art Form." Episode Four, "The Swing Era," will be shown on Sunday, Oct. 14, at 2 p.m. at the McConnell Center in Dover. The McConnell Center is located at 61 Locust Street next to the Dover Public Library and the event will be held in Meeting Room No. 2. You can park behind the library and use Door Two into the Center.

The final two episodes in the series will also be shown at the McConnell Center. Episode Five, "Jazz Innovators: From Bebop to Cool and More," will be presented on Sunday, Oct. 28, at 2 p.m. and Episode Six, "Latin and International Jazz," will be presented on Sunday, Nov. 18, at 2 p.m. All three events are free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Along with the showing of each award-winning documentary in this series, Paul Verrette, associate professor emeritus of music from UNH, will lead a discussion exploring the cultural and social history of jazz as it developed as an art form in the United States. A native of Dover, Verrette is the Music Department's liaison with the New Hampshire Library of Traditional Jazz. Also, he continues to perform with regional jazz groups, and writes the program essays for the UNH Traditional Jazz Series.

The UNH library is one of 50 libraries and nonprofit organizations nationwide to participate in the project's pilot program organized by Re:New Media in partnership with the American Library Association (ALA) and Jazz at Lincoln Center. The project is supported by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and locally by the Seacoast Jazz Society.

"We are delighted to have been chosen as one of the pilot sites for this series on jazz, America's unique and historically significant art form," said Bill Ross, professor and head of Special Collections at the UNH Library. "This program allows Seacoast residents to share in the in-depth information provided by the creators of the series and to discuss the selected films with one of the area's fine jazz scholars. We're also excited to have to have the newly-renovated McConnell Center host it."

The New Hampshire Library of Traditional Jazz (NHLTJ) was established in 1978 by Dorothy Prescott, a long-time supporter of traditional jazz music in New England; it was donated to the university upon her death. The library's mission is to preserve the history of and foster the appreciation and future of traditional jazz music as an original American art form. It maintains archives comprising thousands of recordings, hundreds of jazz-related books and periodicals,

photographs, videotapes, and archival material that document the New England jazz scene after World War II. It is housed in Dimond Library's Milne Special Collections and Archives Department. For more information about the NHLTJ please visit: www.izaak.unh.edu/nhltj/

For more information about the presentations at the McConnell Center, contact Bill Ross at (603) 862-0346 or send e-mail to jazz.collections@unh.edu. For additional information about series content, multimedia, filmographies, and essays for each segment of the series, visit: www.nvr.org/lookingatjazz/

