

The Four Freshmen “Live”

Tony Agostinelli, Editor, The Network

Portsmouth, Rhode Island

If and when the Four Freshmen show themselves within driving distance, go to their performance...they are truly “fresh.” They are blending beautifully and their musicianship is A-1. Old tunes, new tunes, the “old” sound, a sound that’s new, but still old! They interchanged instruments (Ferreira and Calderon did not), they sang out front of the microphones (almost a capella), and they humorously interacted with each other.

As Barbara and I walked into the performance center at North Kingstown (Rhode Island) last evening, the music emanating from the speakers was Kenton....not only as we walked in, but at the intermission and after we walked out at the end, Stan Kenton’s band was played for all of us....John Patterson, a long-time Kentonian (I mailed him ‘The Network’ over the years all over the world wherever he was on assignment)), who produced the Frosh saw to that. Don Boland, long-loving Four Frosh fan, promoted the event...he and long-time friend of the Frosh, Charlie Messier sold the CDs and other Frosh paraphanelia....Don’s grandson, Patrick, was also selling the CDs. Their newest CD was available - “Live in Holland” with a big band. Other luminaries were present: Steve Bianchi (program manager for our only Newport based, but Block Island-antennaed, 24 hour jazz and blues station), Bill Pandozzi (jazz DJ for WRIU-FM at the Uni- versity of Rhode Island and WICE in North Providence), and various other Kentonians and friends with whom I got to talk with at the intermission and afterwards.

A nicely peopled event, a great new group of Freshmen (relatively new), and great Kenton-inspired sounds.

The Frosh are: Bob Ferreira, who is in his twelfth year as a fourth-part singer and drummer; Vince Johnson sings baritone, plays bass, guitar and trombone; Brian Eichenberger is only the third lead singer in Frosh history, he played guitar and bass; and Curtis Calderon joined the group in 2001, sings the second part and plays trumpet and flugelhorn for the Frosh. Lots of whistles and screams from the mostly older crowd with a sprinkling of younger folk and teens....after all, it was in the high school “auditorium.” (Friend, fellow musician (I worked with Joe during the late 1940s and 1950s when we were in high school) and trumpet player, Joe Pelosi, brother of saxophonist, Art Pelosi, was head of the music program for years at the high school.)

Many long-time subscribers to “The Network” and various friends came up to me at intermission and we had a marvelous discussion about Kenton, the Frosh, and with one new convert, about music in general.

The program:

DAY IN DAY OUT
YOU STEPPED OUT OF A DREAM
INVITATION
YOUNG AND FOOLISH
I COULD HAVE TOLD YOU SO

FN January, February, March 2005

IF I ONLY HAD A BRAIN
SKYLARK
SOMEBODY LOVES ME
MAMSELLE
RAIN
INDIAN SUMMER
AROUND THE WORLD TO BE WITH YOU
ANGEL EYES
EVERY TIME WE SAY GOODBYE

Intermission:

ROUTE 66
POINCIANA
IN THIS WHOLE WIDE WORLD
SOMETHING’S GOTTA GIVE
SEPTEMBER SONG
THAT OLD FEELING
YOU’VE CHANGED
THERE’LL NEVER BE ANOTHER YOU
SHOULD I TRY TO HOLD HER NEAR ME?
HOW DO YOU KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING
AFTER YOU’VE GONE
AND SO IT’S OVER

- **The Four Freshmen have recorded 55 albums/cds**
- **They had 70 top-selling singles**
- **They are six-time Grammy nominees**
- **JAZZ TIMES voted the Four Freshmen vocal group of the year in 2003.**

