

Freshmen Fans Exchange

The following members are interested in helping others who may need to buy or sell Freshmen LP's, 45's, memorabilia, etc. Send a note or call. If you're looking to buy an album or more enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope to expedite communication.

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FRESH TALK AT SEA

by Dick Baldwin, President

It was brilliant! The Freshmen and Kenton families together, again: this time on the waves of the Pacific off the Mexican coast. Cruisers recalled it all over again from Dennis Noday's 1999 Caribbean ride from Ft. Lauderdale.

This time real Kenton alumni staffed the Mike Vax Big Band, plus the slick Jeff Hamilton Trio and Sinatra-styled Steve Lippia. Giant-size line-up!

Some of us had not heard the Frosh for months - they haven't changed despite Brian's classic which states otherwise. Impresario Bob Flanigan continued to waltz the decks knowing he has the best jazz vocal group in the country performing in the USA, as well as other international ports.

Group #22 now has a strike of jazz attitude, perfectly at ease with the big names of the Kenton eras and a drummer who plays for Diana Krull (new Verve Christmas album swings) with percussionist Hamilton, who plays big cymbals and large sound. He should be recognized as one of the bigger names on drums during these times when jazz is attempting to make a more influential dent in CD sales.

Leader Vax with MC Tony Agostinelli led a double session of "The History of Jazz." It was entertaining and well presented by both authorities, including Tony's usual film clips from his TV anchor work in Rhode Island. Mr. Vax repeatedly stressed the need to present big band and jazz experiences to the young people. Mike schedules and participates in high school clinics and is himself a product of an early Stan Kenton Clinic as a young horn player.

The Oosterdam's Vista Lounge was the main venue for the various shows - four times on stage for the Freshmen. Thursday afternoon 2:00-4:30 PM was all Frosh, followed by **Fresh Talk**. Trumpeter Vax joined Alums Ross Barbour and Flanigan on the panel of Freshmen. There were nice exchanges with the audience spiced with fast-moving humor. More Freshmen conversion coming in Pittsburgh!

Bob-Brian-Curtis-Vince mixed the old and new at all performances and did brisk sales of discs at Friday's CD Day in the Hudson Room, where initial registration was held Sunday by Jeri Ann Kelly and staff. The Meyers, Danas and Keith Rydman were valuable crew for Jeri at sign-in.

Kenton chairs featured distinguished arranger Bob Florence on piano, Bob himself a story of eminence of big band proportions. I managed to talk with Kenton giants like altoist/writer Kim Richmond, visionary bass saxophonist Joel Kaye who directs the NY Neophonic Ork., fast trumpeter Marvin Stamm, big bass trombonist Mike Suter, Dennis and hard-working Gary Hobbs, a famed Kenton middleman on drums, currently a world traveler performing with big units. The count was 15 of the 18 in the band were former busmates of Stan.

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