

DAN “the” Man

by Bob Baker

I have learned so many things over the past several months in my role as FFS 2006 Convention Chairman, not the least of which is that this Society is blessed with talented, diligent and loyal members. At some point I hope to have the opportunity to recognize and thank all those who have come forward to aid the endeavor. This article, however, is about one terrific gent...California Dan de le Torre.

The more we work with Mr. de le Torre the more impressed I become. In this issue you will get a glimpse of the “official” Pittsburgh International Convention logo; later it will be displayed in glorious size and color on banners, posters and our stationery. Dan had volunteered his artistic services earlier this year, and we took full advantage. I’ve told him that we create the problems and all he does is solve them. Through his wondrous computer graphics and understanding of color, depth and what I term balance, he has also produced the Program Cover using a simply stunning photo by Ron Yeager...”Pittsburgh Lightup Night” overlaid with our favorite group. This will prove to be a keeper.

Dan gives of himself so unselfishly, and has provided his talented work for FFS in the past and most certainly will do so again in the future. He is motivated by his love of the Freshmen sound and asks for nothing. Thank you, Dan!

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THE FOUR FRESHMEN CONCERT AT ROSEBURG, OREGON

By Gil Peterson

Friday, October 7th, 2005, was a sensational evening for over 500 jazz vocal harmony music fans in Jacoby Auditorium on the Umpqua Community College campus here in Roseburg, OR. Over 40 FFS members were present from Oregon, Washington, California, Arizona and Montana. We even had one couple, Graham and Ellen Keeling, who came all the way from Formby, England. It turned out to be one of those unforgettable musical evenings that we will all remember always.

The opening act for the concert was a local group, called the Flat Five, from Umpqua Community College. Allow me to share a little history regarding this group. Last year, when the Freshmen were here, they conducted a masters class workshop at the college. As always, the workshops are a tremendous success and, as a result, five of the attendees decided to form their own group. They requested some Freshmen arrangements and Curtis later sent them several, but strongly suggested they write their own arrangements. They took his advice and now write all of their own arrangements. They have been together now for over a year and have improved dramatically. I have personally been a big supporter and have encouraged them to continue. They were of course, very excited to be the opening act for the Freshmen and did a very nice job. They have a CD now and it is quite nice. I was very impressed with the way the Freshmen went out of their way to support and encourage them. I understand that Vince stayed up quite late to share his musical expertise with them. HOW NEAT!!!!!!

The Freshmen performance was simply flawless. They proved to all present that, without question, they are truly the foremost jazz vocal harmony group of all time. Everyone I spoke with agreed that this was one of the very best, if not the best, performances they had ever heard. I really think the boys enjoy performing here because we have a rather artistic, but “laid back” community who loves to show their appreciation of great entertainment. Not only were the boys musically fabulous, the chemistry between them was superb also. Everyone had a marvelous evening of music and friendship.

Some 50 fans attended the after-glow gathering and Bob even sang with the Flat Five. What a fun time was had by all.

We have had the group here four years in a row and hopefully we will have them back next year. I am scheming already!!

We will see you in Pittsburgh!!!!!!!!!!!!!!