

FRESH TALK

by Dick Baldwin, FFS President

I'm not an obit scanner, but...

THE BUFFALO NEWDS, 24 November '06 stunned my music interest and connection. Diva Anita O'Day died at the age of 87. What a talent she was, since I initially paid attention to BIG BANDS in the late '40s. From Kenton to Krupa she was a factor, that jazz performer young people of my time would create a buzz.

Anita joins a lengthy registry of the great people in jazz now departed, but bigger than ever among us. A native of Chicago and the fast life, she had little time to settle into a normal groove, but instead invited situations her way that resulted in sometimes harmful habits and life-styles.

There was always so much to respect for Ms. O'Day's early scatting and command of fronting a full orchestra or a small jazz group. Anita could do it all from bee bop to the most romantic ballads - a five-star performer for so many venues here and abroad. As long as her white gloves on stage traveled with her, the world was right.

In my music cabinets, and most certainly yours, too, many of the DownBeat & Mertronome trend setters have gone on. But now for the many historic, remastered CDs available, we remain attached to the great ones of the music (jazz) past. The bands, smooth male hit makers, those pretty songbirds, plus the harmonizing groups have left us. Anita, a true canary, had the swinging about her and an attitude, prerequisites for leading the pack of lady vocalists.

There's more? Within the FFS we have the best of all worlds, the music lives and the men **who made and make it** continue among us. How good can it be?

We have ample time to thank the stars of who and what we are - The FF Society? The next time we meet as a body will be in Portland OR August 2-4, '07. Two of the most dynamic performers in the world of jazz vocalizing will be with us and a major part of the three-day program.

These two talents are the living best?

I could listen to the Freshmen Sound from now till....The FF cousins from inner Indiana were major players in the development of pop jazz music. If Group #1 had signed on with the Woody Herman Band, upon departing the Butler U. campus and caused a huge Kenton-Herman feud, where would the dust have settled?

Much of the FF career story is relayed in a 50th Anniversary text, *The Story of the FF*. With this well-written historical accounting, plus the numerous one-on-one conversations and live venue exchanges, the tale continues. In either event, the text or in person, there is much to tell about the start, the middle and the continuum.

We're living right in this FFS. The #22 line-up is hot and keeps us all together, continuing the exciting sound from the sacred American songbook, plus their own arrangements - star stuff.

IT'S NOT OVER!

Thanks **Bob & Ross Bill** and **Ken**, if you're listening!

FN January, February, March 2007

Re (Four Freshmen) - Now that the dust has settled

Jack Morrison, Grand Rapids MI

To Dolly Persun:

The Pittsburgh convention was beautifully planned and executed. It was utterly fantastic.

Few people really understand how much effort it takes to put on such a successful event. My hats off to you, Dolly, and the rest of your committee - Bob Baker (chairman), Dot and Harry Lydic, Bruce and Helen Camlin, Chick Trafford, Bob Lininger, Bill Hillgrove, Karen Baker, Stew Sander and DOLLY PERSUN.

Every FFS member on this web site (and FFS members in general) whether you attended or not should be proud that Our Society hosted such a wonderful affair. Based on all the people I talked to, seems everyone had an experience that will stay with them for years to come.

Again Thanks, Thanks, Thanks.

Pittsburgh 2006 DVD... Now Available

Bob Baker

It has been decided that because of the large number of requests that we have received, a DVD will be offered **only** to the membership. Contrary to the Fresh News article, the Pittsburgh Convention Task-Force has decided to offer Dan de la Torre's production, which is a literal musical postcard of many, many convention events. This DVD, which runs in excess of 100 minutes, will gladden the hearts of every convention participant. It will also allow many who could not attend to appreciate the good times. What a wonderful memory.

The Pittsburgh Task-Force will finance the production of the video. There will be no attempt to make a profit...only cover processing, packaging and shipping of the DVD itself. As opposed to the \$15 to \$20 originally projected for the Hilton video, FFS members will pay only **\$10 per copy**. Each member will be permitted to acquire a maximum of 10 copies. The offer is limited to time and quantity. Please send orders promptly to:

Pittsburgh FFS Task-Force
c/o R. J. Baker
461 Dinnerbell Road
BUTLER PA 16002

Make checks and/or money orders (only) payable to Four Freshmen Society...no sales tax required.