

ROAD SHOW (continued)

The Freshmen ended the evening with "Blue World", "There Will Never Be Another You", "In This Whole Wide World," and, "Route 66." The audience could hardly stop applauding. After the show, we spent a fun evening talking with the Freshmen their enthusiasm for their artistic work is very obvious.

Bob, Brian, Vince, and Curtis to me, their voices just keep getting better and better. The quality of the performance at this concert is a testimony of dedication and commitment toward extending the legacy of Four Freshmen excellence. And, it was especially enjoyable to hear the concert with Karen, Barbara, and Nick almost 60 years ago, Nick and I "discovered" the Four Freshmen at the very same time. And, a special thank you to Nick for his contributions to this article.

FOOTNOTE: I mentioned that Curtis Calderon was flawless I was wrong his knowledge of NBA basketball is seriously suspect. He bet me that The Detroit Pistons would beat The Cleveland Cavaliers in the playoffs this year. The Pistons lost. The bet: If he loses, he must produce, arrange, choreograph, and perform on the next Four Freshmen CD/DVD, "THE FOUR FRESHMEN AND FIVE ACCORDIANS: OUR 500 FAVORITE ALL-TIME POLKA MELODIES."



TOP: Ross B and Miss Georgia enjoy the commraderie.

RIGHT: Vince, Palle Christensen and Don Boland get reFRESHed.

FRESH

Recap: The Four Freshmen

Reviewed by Betty Forrest

The evening of Sunday, October 11th was a celebration as Jack and Mary Morrison brought the fabulous Four Freshmen to perform for an avid audience made up mostly of members of the West Mich. Jazz Society and the Four Freshmen Society. The four talented vocalist/instrumentalists have been the smooth reincarnation of the over 60-year old quartet for many years, selected separately but joined perfectly. Whether crooning a slow ballad favorite such as "Blue World" or swinging an up-tempo "Day By Day", you could close your eyes and drift back to your more youthful days of listening to the original recordings of the famous four that founded and paved the road for future foursomes, or you could open them and enjoy the sight and sounds of the present group performing live the timeless and awesome arrangements that will never lose their youthful vigor.

Special mention must be made of the horn player, Curtis Calderon. While not as tall as the others, he stood front and center every time he took a solo on either the trumpet or flugelhorn. His purity of tone was outstanding on both instruments; his phrasing impeccable; his choice of which to select to enhance the various arrangements always on target. These ears found no brass instrument as mellow and expressive as a well-played flugelhorn, but his trumpet was dynamic without ever being shrill. Holding down center stage was the bass-playing baritone, Vince Johnson, whose scatting along with his solos brought forth appreciative applause from many members of the audience who may have been, like me, remembering the great Slim Galliard's stylings in this manner. Brian Eichenberger is the youngest member of the group at age 33, but has held his position as only the third lead singer in the group's history for nearly a decade, after being selected 13 years ago as bass player and second voice. His boyish good looks don't detract from his ability to supply a firm foundation on the melody of each arrangement.

Last but not least (as the saying goes), is drummer Bob Ferreira who at age 39 has been a Four Freshmen the longest - 17 years. Given four young male entertainers to look at for two hours, any woman regardless of age is going to choose a favorite, and he was mine. Tall, handsome, bald, dynamic, great voice, fantastic drummer, sexy, what more could anyone want? I suspect Mary Morrison has, at some point in time over their many years of attending Four Freshmen events, made the same partiality somewhat obvious. Why else would he perform the only totally solo number of the evening, and dedicate it to her? Maybe I'm just jealous, but for whatever reason, it was a great addition to a great evening. Again, our sincere thanks to the Morrison's for making this event possible.

Note: By the Editor of Jazz Notes - The West Michigan Jazz Society's news letter for their 500 members.

