

## Number 22 is Number 1 by Ray Brown

I just saw and heard, for umpteenth time, Group 22, Brian, Bob, Vince and Curtis. They performed at Harbor Docks in Destin, Florida, on a wooden deck overlooking the harbor.

They were introduced by FFS member Mr. Julian Bond, Chairman of the NAACP and long time Freshmen fan. He told the audience that the Freshmen represented a time in America "when popular music was good, and good music was popular."

It is with great love for the Freshmen Sound that I share with you these observations.

I can't speak for every Freshmen past, but I always believed that perfecting that Sound (capital letter intended) was always the goal of those of us who were chosen to carry on the legacy of Ross, Don, Bob and Hal. Through the years, in addition to the great arrangements and the heart with which they were sung, many "show biz" vehicles have been used by the various groups to keep the Freshmen working....humor, personality, adapting pop tunes to the Freshmen style, instrumental gimmicks, etc. ....but all with two purposes in mind: to keep on going so this music wouldn't fade away, and, to perfect The Sound.

In my "never to be humble" opinion the perfection goal has finally been reached with Group 22. Not some songs, not most songs, but with every chord in every song they sing on stage. I have witnessed this several times since these guys have been together.

Also, the instrumental work is exemplary and their personalities are friendly and charming. Through the years, through the various group changes, I have heard greatness in the recordings and through the speakers. Usually, the harmonies were wonderful and the passion was genuine. However, I have never heard The Sound perfected until Group 22. The way these four gentlemen interact on and off the stage is also exemplary. They are friends and ambassadors of jazz, and everyone who meets them absolutely loves them.

I believe the Freshmen will achieve big notoriety with a younger generation if we can get them booked into more colleges and jazz festivals. I'm concentrating on that.

If any member has contact info for a local jazz festival or a college with an aggressive music department, please let me know how to contact them and I'll send promo material and do the best sales job I can to get The Freshmen booked there.

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## FF in The Wall Street Journal by Art Graham, FF IN Rep

Each Friday the WSJ publishes a section called "Weekend Journal" which focuses on leisure topics. A regular column called "Futures & Options" highlights upcoming events from a selected segment of our national culture. The 1/28/05 edition was introduced as follows:

*Talent contests go far beyond "American Idol." During the next few weeks, ballroom dancers vie to be the best at a competition held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, while in New York, the Metropolitan Opera auditions new singers. Here, a sampling of talent shows that welcome spectators....*

Here is one of the eight featured events which were described:

### LIONEL HAMPTON JAZZ FESTIVAL

February 23-26

The University of Idaho

Kibbie Dome, multiple venues

Moscow, Idaho

208-885-7212; 888-884-3246

[www.jazz.uidaho.edu](http://www.jazz.uidaho.edu)

*ARTISTS LIKE Jane Monheit, Roy Hargrove and the **Four Freshmen** may be the marquee names at the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, but another attraction are the young musicians featured in the free student competitions. Each day of the festival features a young musician's competition in the morning and a winner's concert in the late afternoon (times vary). While the competitions are free, there is a nominal charge for the afternoon concerts. Sometimes the young performers are also invited onstage to perform at the evening shows with the headliners. Tickets for evening shows, at 7:30 p.m. or 8 p.m., range from \$20 to \$30.*

For more on this Freshmen appearance on 2/23 with an all-star big band, click here:

<http://www.jazz.uidaho.edu/default.aspx?pid=47894>

National recognition as marquee entertainers in the jazz idiom who inspire our young musicians...what better publicity can our guys receive? Imagine the reception from this audience when their performance is laced with songs from the *In Session* CD. Life is good....

## Stupid Statements Made by Famous People

"It isn't pollution that's harming the environment, it's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it." **Al Gore, Vice President**

"Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country." **Mayor Marion Barry, Washington DC**