

The Four Freshmen Reading, PA Concert

By Phil Stout

Like Bob Rossi, I was one of the fortunate 500 to attend The Four Freshman Holiday Pops Concert yesterday afternoon in Reading, PA, backed by the 49 piece Reading Pops Orchestra. I have probably seen The Four Freshmen in performance at least 10 or 11 times over the past five or six years. But I have never heard them sound as great, or appear to be in better spirits than yesterday! I'm sure the full orchestral backing (49 musicians & 23 strings) had to be a real high for the guys. Hearing them perform most of the titles from their new Christmas CD "Snowfall" with full orchestral backing was nothing short of sensational! Needless to say, it was a wonderful afternoon.

Some personal observations. . . hearing the orchestra bring the group off and on with a full string sound on "It's a Blue World" was simply gorgeous. Vince's whistling on "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" was haunting and you could hear a pin drop. Curtis joking about how many younger people don't even know the name of some of the instruments contained in a large orchestra. . . then proceeding to introduce the cello as a . . . trombone! For those of you whom might be interested, the program was as follows:

PROGRAM

READING POPS ORCHESTRA

"The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year"
"A Canadian Brass Christmas"
"I'll Be Home For Christmas"
"Silent Night"

THE FOUR FRESHMEN

"Poinciana"
"Something's Gotta Give"
"It Could Happen To You"
"The Day Isn't Long Enough"
"It's Alright With Me"
"How Can I Tell Her"
"You Stepped Out Of A Dream"
"Laura"
"My One And Only Love"
"I'm Always Chasing Rainbows"

INTERMISSION

READING POPS ORCHESTRA

"Jingle Bells"

THE FOUR FRESHMEN

"White Christmas"
"I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"
"Fools Rush In"
"Let It Snow"
"Nancy"
"Christmas Time Is Here"
"Snowfall"
"It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas"
"It's A Blue World"
"Day In, Day Out"

Let me simply say this Holiday Pops Concert had to be a real early Christmas present for all who were there!

The Four Freshmen

Good evening. My name is Bob S. and I would like to share this bit of Freshmen Trivia because this evening I turned on my television, and while going through the channels, I noticed on a Public Broadcasting Channel, KCET, was showing a video - THE FOUR FRESHMEN. I stopped and waited for the video to start up again since it was during a break and when it did I went whoa how do the fellows do this since they were looking a lot younger than the last time I had seen them. To explain, most people that know me know me as L.A. Bob, and yes, I do live in Los Angeles, California. It was around 1981-1982 that I was working at a club out here and being the house sound engineer, I noticed that I was to have the pleasure of working with the Four Freshmen and mixing their show.

Well, at sound check I was blown away because what I was hearing was what I call the old school, meaning they did not need vocal mics., because their vocals were projected from diaphragm, meaning total power and projection that most vocalists don't have a clue what that's all about. In fact, after sound check the boys gave me a compliment that meant a lot to me and I will never forget it. They told me that I was like the first to get their vocal blend correct on the first shot. The club was a club in North Hollywood, CA called The Palomino Club. After that special evening, I was in Las Vegas in June of 1982 and I saw the Freshmen were playing. I got in touch and besides the reason I was in Vegas getting married, they invited my wife, my friends, and me as their guest, which made my night very special. So that's about it, I just wanted to share how The Four Freshmen touched my life. I thank you for allowing me the pleasure of working with you gentlemen!

With much respect...Peace!!

L.A. Bob