

# Freshmen Fans Exchange

The following members are interested in helping others who may need to buy or sell Freshmen LPs, 45s, memorabilia, etc. Send a note or call. If you're looking to buy an album or more, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope to expedite communication.

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Anita Berry  
Jazz Cruises, LLC  
Suite 720  
230 South Bemiston Avenue  
St Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mrs. Berry;

## Re: 9th Annual Jazz Cruise, 2009

I am finally sitting down at my computer to write you a letter. I wanted to thank you, your sons, and your staff for such an enjoyable experience on the above mentioned cruise. This was my first experience on a cruise ship. I was attracted to participate because of the music.

I had never seen or heard the latest "Four Freshmen" group before. This was a strong factor in my decision to experience my first cruise ship as this group was scheduled as part of the music available. I was further influenced by the number of very talented jazz musicians listed in the lineup, not the least of whom was Johnny Mandel who I was aware was a significant composer and arranger, especially for movie soundtracks.

The Jazz Cruise was a musically exciting experience. The peak music experience for me was in seeing and listening to the "Four Freshmen" I was very impressed that this group sounded as good, if not better, live as any of the recordings of them I have heard. I felt the intonation of their voices was superb, the harmony balanced and full, and the phrasing and enunciation of their words was very precise. The evening when this group performed with the large band has to be my favorite, which I believe included the group singing with a five trombone backup.

I really enjoyed the talent and sound from the large band made up of the jazz performers. The band was certainly made up of so many jazz soloists highly talented and capable of presenting interesting solos, technically performed, but expressive and melodic.

Additionally, the jazz combo sessions made up of the "all star musicians" I found exciting and enjoyable, and I tried to attend each if not all of these, which kept me busy trying to plan ahead for each day.

I was impressed with Ken Peplowski, the consummate reed instrument player. I don't believe I had seen or heard him before the cruise. He has such a command of reed instruments, and his organizational skills appear to be essential for the Jazz Cruise. I left the cruise with a high appreciation and regard for his musical talent and skills.

I have several friends who have experienced cruise ships. I was warned by them that the meals on these ships were of gourmet quality. I now understand what they were telling me. I found the dining experiences memorable, with every meal of high quality and very tasty. I had the opportunity to try some meals which I had never eaten before the cruise. Now I am trying to reduce my calorie intake to compensate for the week of gourmet delight on the Jazz Cruise. Not easy for me!

I am happy I participated on the Jazz Cruise. It was a musically exciting experience for me and I have pleasant memories of the week of jazz music, each day of which I found resulted in a musical high for me.

Thank you.

Doran E. Smout

January 25, 2010