

## "Swingin' in Sarasota"

By Dick Hatfield, Ohio.

The Four Freshmen furnished a full evening of ear candy to 497 fans on March first. Every seat in the Players Theatre was taken.

Bob, Vince, Brian, and Curtis, looking pleasingly more slender, took to the stage and literally owned it. You know, it's worth the price of admission just to hear them sing "The Day Isn't Long Enough," "Please Remember," and "Every Time We Say Goodbye," but this night they debuted their new treatment of "Polka Dots" and "Moonbeams." Man, it was the best I ever heard. Wow! Then, again, every gem they sang was met with audience approval.

The occasion was organized by the Jazz Club of Sarasota, the most active jazz club in the United States. It was part of their 30th annual weeklong festival.

Following intermission, the club presented the Freshmen with their distinguished "Satchmo" award. This was the first time the award was presented to a group.

Florida FFS Rep Elmer Schroeder and his wife were bustling with activity at the CD/DVD table in the lobby. It was a busy two days for them with the Freshmen appearing the day before in Largo.



Right: The Four Freshmen in performance, February 9th, 2010 at the McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert, CA. No photos were allowed. However, FFS favorite photog, Dan de la Torre, managed to sneak this outstanding photo just before they threw him out! It is sort of IL DIVO "lite." Great job, Dan!

## More... "Swingin' in Sarasota"

Don Follett, Minnesota

Who worries about the cold weather outside when there is hot jazz inside?

While Pelicans and the locals shivered outside in Florida's unseasonably low

temperatures, your favorite quartet provided the musical warm-up for the 30th annual Sarasota Jazz Festival the week of March 1.

gave their best in a two-hour concert before Jazz Club of Sarasota (JCS) members and other jazz aficionados. The audience also included a good group of FFS members, including 2010 Convention co-chair Biscuit Wev from Maryland, Jack and Mary Morrison from Michigan, and Dick Hatfield from Ohio, along with several Floridians in FFS garb who shed their mittens to applaud our guys. Their show kicked off a six-night series of jazz artists at the storied Players Theater, and was among a half-dozen scheduled gigs for the FF in Florida in a two week period.

The quartet sang your favorites -from "The Day isn't Long Enough" and "Little Girl Blue" to "Polka Dots" and "Moonbeams" and "Guilty," the latter from the new CD. Given the weather, Freshman Curtis Calderone

couldn't resist plugging the group's Christmas "Snowfall" album as well.

Curtis' enthusiastic horn work led the charge for hot jazz appetites, while lead Brian Eichenberger's vocals hit the high notes with precision while on guitar. Bob Ferreira was steady on the drums and Vince Johnson owned the audience whistling happy tunes like "Got That Old Feeling."

You have a favorite? How about an up-tempo "Day In, Day Out" and "Something's Got to Give," pop lyricist Johnny Mercer couldn't be prouder. Or from the "Five Trumpets" and "Live at Butler" albums "There Will Never Be Another You" or "Rain." Some song list!

After the concert, the FF CD sales table was crowded. The club's sophisticated jazz fans bought tickets early, made the event a sellout and stuck around for post-concert conversation.

### AWARD PRESENTATION

Of course the evening's highlight was the Freshmen receiving the JCS "Satchmo" award, the organization's signature event of the year. It was an honor previously presented to the likes of jazz greats Gerry Mulligan, Dave Brubeck, George Shearing, and others (see story in the last "Fresh News.") The award is named for Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, among the fathers of Dixieland jazz and considered by many to be the past century's best trumpet player.

During the show's intermission, Bob Ferreira, senior in FF tenure, accepted the award on behalf of the group, underscoring SJC's long-time devotion to the arts and good music in the community. "It's a truly a great honor to accept this award," said Bob to heavy applause as he received the plaque from Gordon Garrett, JCS's Chairman of the Board. Long-time JCS member Jerry Roucher read an introductory tribute and profile of the FF pointing to their long history and putting them in the pantheon of jazz giants. No strangers to this audience, the Freshmen have performed numerous times to crowds in Sarasota, none more appreciative than on March 1.

