

POSSIBILITIES

by Greg Stegeman

I just finished reading the new autobiography of one of my favorite musicians, Herbie Hancock's *Possibilities*. Herbie has been a major inspiration for me and countless other musicians since the early '60s and has won 14 Grammy awards, an Oscar for scoring the film *Round Midnight* and in 2013, the Kennedy Center Honor. This is what he wrote just 19 pages in:

"We used to stand around as kids on street corners and sing, imitating our favorite groups. Later I heard the Four Freshmen, a vocal quartet that gained fame in the mid-'50s with songs like *Mood Indigo* and *Day by Day*. The Four Freshmen sang harmonies that were beyond the four-part barbershop harmonies that had been popular in the '30s. They sang more jazz-like harmonies, with major sevenths and even a few ninth chords, which mesmerized me and made me want to learn how to sing them myself. I loved this type of singing so much that I even put together my own vocal group at Hyde Park."

Reading this made me very happy.
Hope it does you, too.



Editors Note:

For all of you who bought the Four Freshmen Watches I hope you are enjoying yours as much as Mel and I are enjoying ours. However, all good things must come to an end and so it is true with the watches. They will no longer be for sale. I want to give a big thanks to Jim Bell for getting them made and sold. It was a big job and he was wonderful for taking this on.

Barb Meyers, Editor

Replay At The Metropolis

Dr. Cody Sweet (Laura Skylark)

Freshmen fans braved the wind and snow to attend two nearly sold-out Four Freshmen concerts at the 250-seat Metropolis Performing Arts Theater in Arlington Heights, Illinois on Friday and Saturday nights, January 29 and 30, 2016.

The first half of Friday night's set list sounded like: *Day In, Day Out*, *Poinciana*, *Now You Know*, *Pick Up Your Tears*, *Whole Wide World*, *You Stepped Out of a Dream*, *Angel Eyes*, *Social Call*, *Simple Life*, *Another You*, *Nancy*, *Rain*, *Fools Rush In*, *Gigolo*. Saturday night added *Here's that Rainy Day*.

The second half of Friday night's set list included *Stompin' at the Savoy*, *I Didn't Know About You*, *So Danco Samba*, *Graduation Day*, *Ipanema*, *A Little While*, *My One and Only Love*, *Come Fly with Me*, *Day by Day*, *Blue World*, *Route 66*, and *Rainbow* for the encore. Saturday night was identical. The guys hope to record *A Little While* this summer.

The guys originally were going to sing *Central Park West* and *Moonglow* but substituted *I Didn't know about You* and *My One and Only Love*.

At the intermissions and after the concerts, FF Society members Will Cochran and this writer entertained a brisk business selling the newest Four Freshmen and Friends CD and vinyl recordings, Live from Las Vegas, Live Trombones, At the Franklin, Love Songs, and In Session. Several joined the Four Freshmen Society which they found by signing up on the membership blank and locating on the Four Freshmen Society online site. The fan club is not linked on The Four Freshmen site itself. The audience ranged in age from a 13-year-old (Will Cochran's granddaughter) to 94-year-old Mickey Lee (a decades-long fan).

Curtis Calderon soloed on every number with his trumpet and flugelhorn. Bob Ferreira paid tribute to Julie London and sang *Simple Life* while using brushes. Stein Malvey held the lead guitar spotlight on several tunes including *Rainy Day*. Newest Freshmen member (one year) Tommy Boynton (lead voice and bass) brought cheering sections with him of previous students as he soloed on *I Didn't Know about You* and *Fools Rush In*.

In a brief interview with Tommy, he shared with this writer his happiness and musical growth during his first year on tour. The said the more he plays and sings the Freshmen tunes, the more he appreciates the musical legacy of the Freshmen.

The evenings could be summarized by saying they were a near-classic blend of harmony, instrumentation, humor, and historical significance of past decades of musical memories.

Staccato Thoughts on the Metropolis Concerts by The Four Freshmen

Most Emotional Moment: Tribute dedication of *Blue World* to Ross, Don, Hal, and Bob

Funniest Line: "So many drummers. So little time." (Bob)

Best Explanation of Staggered Opening Entrance: "Our limos arrived at different times." (Bob)

Most Missed Group Songs: *Shining Hour*, *You've Changed*

Two Most Missed Solo Songs: *Where Do You Start?* *How Do You Keep the Music Playing?* (Bob)

Best Recording Audiophile Quality: Four Freshmen and Friends (vinyl). Greatest Audio Problem: Guys singing in-one (far down- center stage) without any mic

Best Mic Sound: The two Bob brought on and off stage when group down center for a few of the songs

Best Tribute to an Instrument: "Today I visited the factory where this was designed." (Curtis)

Most Repetitive Translation of a Song Lyric: *So Danco Samba* (Curtis)
Quietest: Stein

Tenderest Guitar Solo: *Rainy Day* (Stein)

Most Appreciated Solo Saturday Night: *Fools Rush In* (Tommy)

Most Musical Interpretation: *I Didn't Know About You* (Tommy)

Most Obvious Anachromism: *Graduation Day* (beep)