

# Mini FFS Convention in Tokyo

by Yas Ichiura

We were so lucky to have The Four Freshmen performing eight shows on December 22nd-25th at The Cotton Club in Tokyo. It has been four years since their last visit to Japan.

Bob Ferreira and the guys kindly accepted our request to join the mini FFS Convention in Tokyo. On December 23rd, we got together at Jazz Bird, a small jazz club in Tokyo. The annual FFS Convention is held for three days, but, this mini Convention was held for just three hours. However, we did squeeze in a lot of activities.



Michiko Sakai and Michiko Ichiura, together with other girls prepared very delicious and nice-looking food for the almost 30 attendees. Our long time FFS musical mentor of Japan, Alaki Yutaka, conducted *How Can I Tell Her* with his own transcription in four-part harmony. All of us felt so happy and we enjoyed singing in harmony with the Real Freshmen - Tommy, Stein, Jon and Bob.

The guys held a Jam session with fans and friends, including a young, new Fresh fan and his violin. Three hours passed too soon, time flies when you're having fun. We took a group photo right before the guys sang *Whole Wide World*.

Thank you to the Four Freshmen for having such nice time with us. I also want to thank Yuichi Hatori, a long time FFS member, for his splendid MCing at the party.



# The Cotton Club at Christmas in Japan

by Michiko Sakai

Since their last visit to Japan four years ago, the much-awaited Four Freshmen Live concert in Japan has become a reality in December 2018. Four glorious evenings with eight sessions at the gorgeous venue, Cotton Club, an elegant live music restaurant in Tokyo, their sold-out Christmas dinner shows were a resounding success.

I attended three of their sessions along with six of my family members and friends who are also Frosh fans as well as with seven of my relatives and friends who were brand new to the world of Frosh.

Though their programs were packed with many Christmas songs, even sitting through two consecutive sessions were amply enjoyable since they cleverly varied the contexts between the 1st. and 2nd. session.

Bob's solo fascinated the audience with his drum beats as powerful as usual, and Stein passionately played his guitar in timely-placed interludes. The two young members, Tommy and Jon (who were the first time visitors to Japan) joyfully sang and played their instruments, showing no fatigue of the long journey nor jet lag.

At the final session on their last day in Tokyo, I shared the table with five young people who had never heard the sound of The Four Freshmen.

These young people's objective was to enjoy luxurious nights at fashionable spots over French dinner while listening to live music. After the evening, they said that it was more splendid and enjoyable than

expected and that they felt fortunate to have been able to obtain the tickets.

One of them commented that it was like listening to a CD. That surprised me a bit.

Then again, there may be many musicians in the world today whose music on their digitally-edited CD that is perfectly finished and sounds better

than their live performances.

I believe that The Four Freshmen fans absolutely prefer their live performances over listening to their CD because of the quartet's superb capabilities on stage.

My friend, who was a first-timer to Frosh, told me that he will broadcast his wonderful experience at the live concert,

boast to others about Frosh and that he will hold a Frosh-listening party.

To be honest, those who are ardent fans of The Four Freshmen would have enjoyed listening to their standard numbers, rather than Christmas songs. Nevertheless, their visit to Japan this time around was a significant opportunity to introduce the Frosh to the young generation who have never heard the great sound of The Four Freshmen.

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