

ARE YA GONNA VOTE? I GOTTA KNOW.

by Don Boland

Last Monday, the new DownBeat made its appearance in my mailbox. It is the July 2003 issue and it contained a ballot for the 68th Annual Reader's Poll. There are three issues that contain this ballot, the July, August and September issues. They usually reach the readers around the 10th of June, July and August and DownBeat wants all ballots postmarked no later than September 5th, 2003.

That said, I have written articles supporting The Four Freshmen for the last six or seven years. My one wish is that they eventually get elected to The DownBeat Hall of Fame in addition to being voted The Vocal Group of the Year in this annual poll.

I have tried to get across the importance of this poll by telling you the reader, that if they were elected to The DownBeat Hall of Fame, then they would probably be featured on the cover of this international magazine and also have an article of 5 or 6 pages in length done about them within the publication.

International Ventures, the management company who is now behind our guys, must think the poll has a great deal of importance and they are in the business, so they must know. I receive publicity shots and press kits from IVI for use in booking The Four Freshmen and in the publicity they always mention "DownBeat Magazine Vocal Group of The Year For 2000 and 2001."

If you have seen The Four Freshmen perform within the last couple of years, they will usually mention the 2000 and 2001 results with pride, and rightfully so. There is no doubt that they belong in The DownBeat Hall of Fame.

This is the only issue of Fresh News that will appear within the voting deadlines for The Reader's Poll, so please act while you are thinking about the poll. DownBeat can be purchased at Borders, Barnes & Noble, or A Million Books. If they don't have it in stock, they can order from their supplier. Your local public library or college library probably has copies on hand. With over two months to get the vote in, there is no acceptable reason I can think of as to why you cannot get your hands on a ballot. It may be difficult to find, but who ever said it was supposed to be easy. Suppose there was a \$100 bill in each DownBeat, could you then find a copy?

Please fill out as many categories as possible. The following list is how the categories are listed in the magazine and it shows how I am voting. The three choices I put down are the final three in my consideration for each category. Let's get them in The DownBeat Hall of Fame. Remember two years ago, we missed by only 34 votes. We have been so close, so many times, let's make this the year of The Four Freshmen.

Thanks, Don Boland

Hall of Fame: The Four Freshmen

Jazz Musician of The Year: Tom Harrell, Andrew Hill, Keith Jarrett

Jazz Album Of The Year: Milt Jackson/Goodbye - Ron Miles
Heaven - Cassandra Wilson Belly of the Sun

Jazz Reissue of The Year: Lee Morgan, Lee-Way, Sarah Vaughn, The Complete Roulette Recordings

Jazz Label of the Year: Concord, Blue Note, Columbia

Jazz Electric Combo: Steve Coleman, Bill Frisell, John Pizzarelli

Jazz Acoustic Combo: Dave Holland, Joe Lovano, Kenny Baren

Jazz Big Band: John Allmark, Count Basie, Either Orchestra

Blues Musician/Group of The Year: BB King, Buddy Guy, Taj Mahal

Blues Album of the Year: Blues Odyssey, Do You Get The Blues, American Roots Music

Beyond Musician: Carlos Santana, Jeff Beck

Beyond Album: Outbound Bela Fleck, Voodoo D'Angelo

Arranger: Bill Holman, Bob Brookmeyer, Chico O'Farrill

Composer: Tom Harrill, Dave Douglas, Greg Osby

Trumpet: Claudio Roditi, Joe Giorgianni, John Allmark

Trombone: Kevin Stout, George Lewis, Ray Anderson

Flute: James Moody, Dave Valentin, Herbie Mann

Clarinet: Paquito D. Rivera, Ken Peplowski, Jimmy Giuffre

Sax Soprano: Dave Liebman, Steve Lacy, Branford Marsalis

Sax Alto: Greg Abate, Greg Osby, Steve Coleman

Sax Tenor: Dino Govoni, Greg Osby, Dave Douglas

Sax Baritone: Bob Bowlby, Ronnie Cuber, Joe Temperley

Electric Keyboard: Chris Neville, Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock

Acoustic Piano: Tim Ray, McCoy Tyner, Herbie Hancock

Organ: Joey DeFrancesco, Jimmy Smith, John Madeski

Guitar: Grey Sargeant, Jim Hall, Bill Frisell

Bass Electric: Bill Miele, John Patitucci, Christian McBride

Bass Acoustic: Marshall Wood, Mark Elf, Dave Holland

Drums: Butch Miles, Roy Hanes, Jack DeJonnette

Percussion: Trilock Gurtu, Don Alias, Ray Berretto

Vibes: Terry Gibbs, Bobby Hutcherson, Gary Burton

Misc Instrument: Toots Thielemans (harmonica), Bela Fleck (banjo), Steve Turre (shells)

Singer Male: Giacomo Gates, Mark Murphy, Kurt Elling

Singer Female: Rebecca Parris, Shawn Monteiro, Donna Byrne

VOCAL GROUP: The Four Freshmen