

## **The Four Freshmen in Holland, April 2003**

**by Palle Christensen, FFS Europe**

Ten years ago The Four Freshmen were touring Holland. The first concert back then was at Nick Vollebregt's Jazzcafe in the city of Laren and the hour from 2200 to 2300 was broadcast live on TROS radio. The remarkable thing from that tour was the fact that The Freshmen were accompanied by a trio with piano, bass and drums.

This year The Freshmen were invited back to Holland in connection with the 30th anniversary of the radio station TROS. As the information became available, the European members were making plans to meet. The Freshmen tour consisted of 3 concerts in different parts of Holland, and as we do not see our favorites very often, I decided to go on the road with them. This is what we experienced:

The first concert was in the city of Laren. The mentioned Nick Vollebregt's Jazzcafe is a little jazz place and the concerts there are broadcast live on TROS radio. This year is the 30th anniversary of these broadcasts and this was going to be celebrated. The Freshmen arrived in Holland on the 21st of April. Wednesday the 23rd was the day of the celebration. Of course the Jazzcafe was too small for this event so a nice concert hall called Singer Theater Zaal, supported by the Singer family, was housing the concert. As traveling with my Dutch connection, Rein de Graaff, I could watch the rehearsal throughout the whole day. The concert programme? Well, the program was jazz for all ages. Five young kids playing piano, trumpet, trombone, clarinet and sax did very well with a big band supporting them. At the other end of the age scale was the Dutch singer, Rita Reys, also called "The European First Lady of Song," who did 2 songs.

At exactly 10:00 pm everybody was quiet and got ready for a direct broadcast on TROS radio. The first part of the radio program was The Freshmen by themselves followed by 30 minutes with The Freshmen and the Jazz Orchestra of The Concertgebouw - a total of 1 hour live Four Freshmen music. The Freshmen did their song list and ended up with a surprise. The TROS radio jingle is 48 seconds, but the band leader Henk Meutgeert added some and arranged the words in the Four Freshmen harmony style. Everyone in the audience was astonished by the Freshmen doing their radio song (by the way, the text was done 6 years earlier by Georgie Fame from England). Do I need to add that The Freshmen received a standing ovation for their outstanding performance? Before and after the show there was a reception in the Singer Museum and we all ended up there.



**Brian, Curtis and Bob playing chess.  
And the winner was ????????????**

The next day everyone was off to the city of Enschede and here all the FFS members and Freshmen fans met. The concert there was in a small jazz club. I think that everyone there knew what to expect with regards to Freshmen harmony as all were jazz fans. The concert began with a little memorial. Some words were said in Dutch and a part of music played. After the show I found out that the little memorial was to honor the sax player, Terry Edwards, who died a day or two before. The music played was with Terry Edwards and our own Rein de Graaff. The concert was great, ending with The Freshmen doing "Their Hearts Were Full of Spring" without microphones. Fantastic! About 40 Freshmen CD's were available and they were all sold within 10 minutes.



**The jazz club in Enschede**

Unfortunately the bar at the hotel was closed when the concert was over, so there was no place for an afterglow. But we did do a lot of Freshmen talk during the daytime. This was the concert where the most FFS members were present and the largest group was our German friends with 16 FFS members.