

“HOW CAN I TELL HER”

Fred Williamson, Delaware State Rep

As I watched the Four Freshmen perform “How Can I Tell Her,” the same question occurred to me. How can I tell my wife about the musical experience of the past few hours?

I traveled to Leesburg, Virginia, alone to see the Freshmen concert while my wife, Ronnie, was in New York City for the day. After fighting the remnants of tooth surgery from the day before and a steady flow of Washington DC area traffic, I arrived at the lovely Holiday Inn and was told upon check-in that the rest of the party was in the lounge having lunch. What a pleasant surprise to walk in and find the Four Freshmen there as well as old friends Dave Barnes, Lorraine Dellinger and Chick Trafford, “My Bunkie.”

Lorraine had helped me arrange for my last minute ticket to the show but I never expected such a lovely, impromptu gathering - timing is everything! Over sandwiches and iced tea we discussed the Freshmen past and present and lots of “Music Talk” in between. Vince is also a big “Take 6” fan, and as I’m just scratching the surface of Miles Davis and his sound Curtis gave me some insight as to how Miles’ music affected his style and sound.

Later that afternoon Chick and I attended what was a first for me - we saw the Freshmen “Sound Check” at the Stone Bridge High School Auditorium. There I met Erich Bucholtz of Bucholtz Productions and Artie Lapka. I believe Erich said that this was his 7th “Freshmen Gig,” so they knew the Freshmen sound and what was needed for the perfect blend. He actually used an “older” system because it gave a better Freshmen sound and was chosen over some “newer stuff.” These two guys were really something to watch and hear.

After seeing luggage spread across the stage, equipment scattered here and there, wires running all over, voice checks of “more bass,” “cut this back,” “can you adjust that,” lights being flashed on and off, horns blowing, drums assembled and tuned, stick bass and guitar running the keys, Artie and Erich synchronizing through headsets, Erich constantly checking with the performers and dashing back and forth to the stage for adjustments - one thinks how will this ever come together when all of a sudden it does, and with smiles, verbal ok’s and that sound all of the voices and instruments are as one.

You have to remember, as a first timer at a “sound check” I was in awe and even the “veteran” Chick Trafford got goose bumps when it all came together. Erich allowed me to listen through his headset as Bob Ferreira practiced his new solo number. Thanks to Erich and Artie for helping to “make my day” and for putting that Freshmen sound right on the money - well done guys!

Show time got underway right on schedule to a crowd of 500+ with many FFS members in the house. The Freshmen were absolutely awesome and performed about 30 songs for this worthwhile event of Volunteer Care Givers. The sincerity and dedication of the Freshmen was reflected in their performance by a standing ovation from an appreciative audience. I believe

Dave Barnes said that we sold out of CD’s and signed up 5 new FFS members that night.

What better way to unwind after such a busy, beautiful day of music and friends old and new, than to be invited to the local Country Club for a lovely party of cold refreshments and smoked salmon along with cheese and fruit. It was great to see the Freshmen relax after such a wonderful show and enjoy this special time and, as always, they were their usual gracious accommodating selves, stopping to chat with as many guests as they could. That cordiality and willingness is what helps to make Bob, Brian, Vince and Curtis such special people.

Speaking of special people, I take this opportunity to say thank you to Doug Trout and his staff for all of their efforts in putting this very worthwhile event together. I saw Doug put in 12 non-stop hours just on Saturday, let alone all of his other time involved. Thank you and well done, Doug.

It was after midnight when Chick and I headed back to the hotel, still reminiscing about the busy day. As I headed home to Delaware the next morning with coffee in hand and a Freshmen CD blaring away, the thought occurred to me again - what a fun-filled 18 hours to tell Ronnie about. “How Can I Tell Her!”

Changes for State Reps:

Mel Meyers (AZ) SW Reg. Director

New Address: 11821 No. Desert Slopes Way
Oro Valley AZ 85737

Fred and Ronnie Williamson (DE)

New phone #: (302) 738-4724

Bill Curts (FL)

New Email: WWWCURTS2000@AOL.COM

***Barbara Meyers (NV)** New Address:

2806 San Martin Ct., Las Vegas NV 89121
New phone #: (702) 734-1318

*(Barb & Mel recently purchased a new home in NV. They are currently maintaining two residences.)

Cheley Miller (VT) New address:

195 State St.
Rutland VT 05701

Cindy & Joe Persinger

Eastern Central Regional Directors
Email: CDP6S@VIRGINIA.EDU

Another Update on FFS State Reps

In the last issue of Fresh News (April, May, June) two email addresses were incorrect. Bill Truitt’s (CO) correct email is <Evnbillt@aol.com> and Janet Fortune’s (AR) correct email is <jfortune@cox-internet.com>