

treat thanks to the movie actress, Frances Langford, and her husband named Evinrude. Yes, he's the boat-motor maker. They had the band get aboard their private plane (a DC3 - the R.A.F. called it a Dakota) and the pilot took them all past the Empire State Building, The Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn Bridge, etc., etc., etc.

Bobby Pratt was such a powerful lead trumpet player. It made sense to think of him as a man who had chosen a certain trumpet - the very best one for his use. That's why we were surprised when a trumpet maker's representative had Bobby try out their new model horn. He played a few notes on it in the dressing room and it worked OK, so he took it on stage with him when the show started. Here it is - Carnegie Hall, and they are recording this one - and Bobby is trying a new horn!?! Later I asked him what he would have done if one or two of the valves stuck. He shrugged.

The next day we went with the band to the dock where their ship waited to return our friends to England. A disc jockey with a tape recorder asked Ted what impressed him most about the band's first tour of the USA. Ted's reply: "I think it was the size of Texas!"

*Five years later (1961) The Freshmen and June Christy worked in England, and Les Gilbert got most of the band and us together at his Pub. It was a wonderful reunion. Ted tried to be proper, but June would have none of that. Before it was over we had Ted behind the bar drawing beer for us all. He loved it.

It wasn't long after that we Freshmen were back in England and Bob Flanagan and I visited Ted and Moira. Ted was still getting around OK, but he was fighting his last fight.

FF at Bowling Green State University **by Dick Hatfield, Oh Rep**

Awesome is an understatement for the Freshmen appearance in Lenhart Grand Ballroom at Bowling Green University on April sixth.

Their harmony in that acoustically-perfect room was so vibrant that even the most seasoned Fresh fan had that seventh heaven feeling. And they were sartorially sharp in finely tailored three-button suits, singing one evergreen after another. They were so good I didn't even miss the fact that they hadn't sung Graduation Day or Blue World. But they did do Blue World as a finale after a rousing standing ovation.

Our 39-year-old son, Rod, seeing these four for the first time, commented "How can this world-class group not be noticed by Letterman, Leno, Regis, Conan, etc. They ought to be on everyone's show and have their own video on VH-1."

I agree. They are the absolute best!

Palm Desert, California **April 2, 2005** **by Tony Sayre, Riverside, California**

It was a beautiful warm spring night in Palm Desert, CA. Friends of ours, who knew we loved the Four Freshmen, had purchased six \$65.00 front row mezzanine seats in the beautiful McCallum Theater for us and another couple, and we were looking forward to a wonderful FF concert. Then, when I looked in the program, I saw, much to my consternation, that the program was called "Forever Fifties" and the FF were not the only ones on the program. What a disappointment! We had to sit through Horace Height Jr. conduct a 13 piece band (three trumpets, two trombones, four saxes, piano, electric bass and drums), play, very expertly, such schlocky numbers as (who cares, if they're schlocky!) Then we had to sit through a comedian, who was very very funny, and had some excellent material.

But then, after intermission, The Platters sang their hits from the fifties, which I personally detest! It was too loud and painful! But, much to my amazement, there were a lot of people there who actually like them and gave them an enthusiastic standing ovation. Later, some of those people didn't applaud the Freshmen, but some did, just as enthusiastically. There is no accounting for people's taste.

Finally, the FF, nattily dressed in tuxes with red bow ties, got to sing, but only for 20 minutes! Horace Height Jr.'s band accompanied them very professionally, with Horace sitting in with the trumpets to fill out the section. But they couldn't compare with the Dutch band that accompanied them on the FF Website. Brian did a perfect job of conducting them.

The Freshmen were in fine singing form. They sang several songs from their "Live in Holland" CD, including "Day In, Day Out," "Poinciana," "It's A Blue World," and a sheep song - "There Will Never Be Another Ewe." (Strange!) The sound system was too loud, but the acoustics were so good you could pick out each individual voice when they sang in close harmony. The high point for me was hearing Curtis play outstanding, absolutely superb trumpet solos and beautiful flugelhorn. What a treasure he is! With his playing, I don't miss Conte Candoli or Chet Baker so much.

But only 20 minutes of my beloved Freshmen for \$65.00! I wanted my money back! I had to sit through two hours of stuff that I would have switched stations if it had been on the radio! Then I remembered I didn't have to pay for the tickets. All I can say is that I hope it is a good gig financially for them. It's for sure, except for Curtis, they didn't have to work as hard as they do when they have to play their instruments while they sing. But, I missed their talented great accompanying and great solo playing. I missed Vince's "Slam Stewart" and "Yo Yo Ma" double bass virtuosity.

Fight On! Go Trojans! Three-Pete! (Threw that in for Vince.)

We're looking forward to Amsterdam and the Mexican Riviera Cruise in December.