

The Gatherings

FestivoX Festival, Tiffin University, OH & Thornapple Arts Council Jazz Fest, Hastings, MI

by Marlene Lobsiger and Dave Blackwell

Several members of the Four Freshmen Society gathered in Tiffin, Ohio on Friday, April 12 at Carmies restaurant for dinner, renewing friendships and exchanging memories from the past and present of Four Freshmen concerts and conventions. Dave and I acted as hosts.



Following dinner we headed downtown to the beautiful Historical Ritz Theatre built in 1928, where the Freshmen were in concert playing to a nearly full house. The four guys joined us and other concert attendees in the lobby after the performance where we sold CDs, and the guys were busy greeting and signing the CDs.

The Freshmen were invited to not only perform in concert in Tiffin but were invited along with other outstanding guest artists and clinicians to perform Q & A and workshops with high school and college jazz and pop vocal groups during the day at the University. It was an exciting evening for us to once again hear the Four Freshmen performing in concert many of the songs we love, as well as keeping the legacy of the Four Freshmen alive after 76 years. They never let their audience down throughout the evening though they must have been extremely tired from working at the University for two days with vocal jazz groups from the area,

not to mention that Jake was coming off jet lag after performing in Italy for several days.

TWO WEEKS LATER. HASTINGS, MICHIGAN, APRIL 26

The morning of April 26 Dave and I traveled from Fort Wayne, Indiana to Hastings, MI for another "Gathering"



of Four Freshmen Society members and to attend a concert by The Four Freshmen held at the Hastings Performing Arts Center. Four Freshmen Society members gathered at the Seasonal Grill in downtown Hastings for cocktails and dinner prior to the concert. We had a great time being with members from South Bend and Fort Wayne Indiana, Detroit,
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