

Our
President,
**Donna
Gallaway**



The Four Freshmen and Emmet Cohen Trio Heat Up The Twin Cities Jazz Festival

By Christian Rank, FFS historian

The temperature was already sizzling when Group 27 along with the Emmet Cohen Trio took to the main stage at the 27th annual Twin Cities Jazz Festival held in Mears Park in downtown Saint Paul, but the heat didn't stop the Frosh and Emmet from putting on a top notch show for hundreds of Freshmen and Jazz fans in general who were feeling the groove from the first note. Our boys came out swinging with *From This Moment On*, with Jake displaying his finest horn playing finesse. A jubilant *When You're Smiling*, which is on the new CD, followed and the crowd was smiling from ear to ear. Ryan's now familiar arrangement of *All the Things You Are* (my favorite as of late), *Easy Living*, Kenny Albers treatment of *Have You Met Miss Jones*, *Put On A Happy Face*, *Day By Day*, *It's A Blue World* and *Poinciana*, with a little nod to Ahmad Jamal courtesy of Emmet, made for a most enjoyable set. The crowd then grew silent when the boys did a nearly a capella *I'm Always Chasing Rainbows*. You could hear a pin drop!

Emmet, along with Yasushi Nakamura (bass) and Kyle Poole (drums) did a really swinging solo set which was highlighted by a stunning virtuoso take on Bacharach and David's *This Guy's In Love With You*, which had us all in awe! Is playing this good legal? Fortunately, yes! The Freshmen came back on and closed with the most swinging *Route 66* I've ever heard, and believe me, I've heard many. The capacity crowd was definitely feeling the vibe!

This two-day festival was a very well-organized affair with two alternating stages at opposite ends of the park and various other acts playing at assorted restaurants, bars and clubs throughout the Twin Cities. One of those venues was Crooners Supper Club which hosted the Explosion Big Band, who had among its roster, the Freshmen's Jake Baldwin in the trumpet section. We had a great time tapping our feet to the best of Basie, Thad Jones/Mel Lewis, Ellington, etc.

Many cities have loads of jazz talent, but the Twin Cities is near the top, and it sure was on display this first weekend of summer!

This was definitely the right occasion to launch the much anticipated Volume Two of the Freshmen with Emmet Cohen, Russell Hall and Kyle Poole. If you haven't heard the album yet, you won't be disappointed and you'll be in for a few pleasant surprises!

What a way to kick off summer. Here's to Group 27!



GREETINGS FFS MEMBERS & FRESHMEN FANS

Hope you are all enjoying a restful and not too hot summer with plenty of good music to soothe your souls. Need some new music? The Freshmen have just released a new album with the Emmet Cohen Trio. Order a disc from the Music Mart or download it from the Freshmen's website.

The recent loss of Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys brings attention back to the huge influence the Freshmen have had on other musicians and groups. Brian was so impacted by the sound the Freshmen created that he spent endless time dissecting their harmonies then writing the many hits the Beach Boys produced over the years. Today it is great to see some groups of college age kids who want to learn the Freshmen charts and then perform and share the music. You can catch some of those performances on YouTube.

When you read the rest of this issue of *Fresh News*, you will find the introduction of FF Group 28. What an exciting time for the Freshmen to welcome a twenty-something young Chris to the group! I can't wait to see them perform!

It is with much sadness that we say goodbye to Ryan Howe after five years of heartfelt dedication to the group and to the FF sound. Ryan, we will miss your strong voice and your gentle nature - a true gentleman of song! We thank you for your many contributions to keeping that Fresh Sound alive. Best wishes for a great future. We will always love you as a valued member of the Four Freshmen!