

Modification of Notes

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Our Freshmen offer many kinds of pleasures for us. It is interesting that they vary the treatment of the same tune in different situations.

On one of my favorites, "Route 66" for example: On the album "Voices and Brass" they swing comfortably. On the "In Person, Vol. 2" album, they run jauntily down route 66...on the "Fresh" album they drive hard. Another example: "Graduation Day" - they sang one and a half choruses on the "Freshmen Favorites" album. Later, they do only one chorus...but because of a new "taste" in each one we are completely satisfied with the shortened version.

It is also a pleasure to discover different notes on different takes. Returning to "Graduation Day," we notice a different sound before the coda. Though the baritone sings a flatted ninth until group #3 (Ex. 1), he changed it to a normal ninth after group #4 (Ex. 2). The former sounds traditional and the latter modern. The former is useful when singing a cappella, on the contrary the latter tightens with instrumental accompaniment.

When you listen to "The Day Isn't Long Enough," you may find different notes here and there by different groups, e.g. the phrase - "and it's time to go." I note three patterns (Ex. 3, 4, 5). Therefore I suppose that the original score is not absolute and the Frosh were trying to get a different sound. Mechanically, the chord on "go" is C9#11 consisting of C, E, G, Bb, D and F#11. The F# cannot be unnoticed. The characteristic notes, Bb and E, should not be unnoticed. The root note C may be supported by the bass. The second voices all sing the D. It seems that this chord needs five voices, therefore examples 3 and 6 look to be the best choice.

It is also pleasant to notice different notes from the original score. We hear "And so it's over" on "In Person 2" and "Collectors Series." The former is a live performance and the latter is a studio one, and the second voice is the same person, Bill Comstock. I transcribed the tune according to Bill's singing. Years after, when I got a copy of original score, I noticed that a chord had been changed to C69 from C6. You will see the different notes in "-ments" of "where did the moments go" (Ex. 7 and Ex. 8).

The most famous tune, "It's A Blue World," is also not the same as the original. The Frosh use a simple triad on "how empty they have grown," and it thrills us.

It is very pleasant to listen to their sound and how it changes from different recordings.

Ex. 1

Ex. 2

Ex. 3

Ex. 4