

CALDERON SHINES AS VOCALIST ON NEW CHET BAKER TRIBUTE CD

by Mike Collins (TX)

For more than three years FFS members have enjoyed the work of its newest member, Curtis Calderon, who hit the ground running on Labor Day of 2001 and immediately became the quartet's featured instrumental soloist on trumpet and flugelhorn.

But we've been in the dark on his ability as a vocal soloist, since for most of this duration his only vocal solo was a one-liner in "I Concentrate on You," until more recently rectified in his more extended solo on "You've Changed."

The mystery is solved now with Curtis' new CD, "Lost Soul, a Tribute to Chet Baker," which Curtis produced in late June and now is available. Unlike Greg Stegeman's excellent CD "Culmination" introduced in 2003, this is not the Four Freshmen sound; it's deeper into the West Coast jazz feel of half a century ago. Calderon's hand-picked musicians give listeners the feel of Baker's trumpet/singing style during his collaboration with renowned baritone saxophonist Gerry Mulligan throughout the 15-selection set.

On nine numbers, Curtis sings. Included are songs previously recorded by the FF such as "I Get Along Without You Very Well," "My Funny Valentine" and "For All We Know." (But once again, this is not the Four Freshmen sound.)

Stegeman's arrangement of the Ray Noble favorite, "The Touch of Your Lips," provided a rendition of how the FF might handle it had they recorded; the Calderon interpretation is more gritty and a different splendor.

Of the six strictly instrumental choices, my personal favorites are the Modern Jazz Quartet anthem, "Django," and "Bernie's Tune," a standard in virtually every jazz group's library for 50 years.

For admirers of the tortured Baker, "Lost Soul" is a must. And for those not as familiar with Baker, you'll like the compilation associated with him also.

And you'll finally hear Curtis' distinctive vocal effort...he can sing!



New FF CD titled "Young & Foolish"

by Yas Ichiura (Japan)

I got a sample copy of the new FF CD, which will be released from Venus Records in Japan. The content is identical to "FF In Holland" as you already know.

"Produced by FFS Inc." is referred and well designed overall. One of FFS members in Japan, Goro Iwafune, happened to be involved in the design work. The retail price is JPY 2,800 including tax, which is reasonable compared with other CDs in Japan.

A famous jazz critic, Hiraku Aoki, wrote liner notes, and he also mentioned FFS with my name & address. It was a big surprise and honor to me. I had sent him a "Still Fresh" CD some years ago and introduced him to FFS. Later, I met him personally at a party in Tokyo.

I hope I will receive many contacts from those who would buy this CD. I will ask them to join FFS, of course.

This new CD will officially be released on 21st of October in Japan.

I wanted all of you to update the new CD progress in Japan..

"Date In Dayton"

Dick Hatfield (OH Rep)

The date in Dayton was September 12 when the Fresh took over the four microphones on stage at Gilly's downtown.

They came sharply dressed in dark 3-button suits and never sang a bad one.

During the break I was happy to assist in selling abundant copies of "Live in Holland," and Curtis' "Lost Soul." The flock came in droves to purchase and everyone commented on how incredibly wonderful they sound.

About midpoint of the second show they surprised us all by shifting the stage around and proceeding to sing "unplugged." Using only two mikes at a distance, they harmonized on four songs with just guitar and bass accompaniment. Only the well-practiced can perform like this, and they did it with smiling with ease.

On more than one occasion the Freshmen teased the audience about what they should call their forthcoming album. We don't know, but whatever it is, we're buying it!