

## FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Grand Rapids, MI - Sat., July 31, 2004  
by Donna Gallaway, FFS Sec.

Approximately 175 FFS members gathered in the Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Hotel at 10:00 AM for the general information meeting. President Tom Purvis announced that Amsterdam, Holland, had been approved by the Board of Directors as the 2005 convention site. Henny Grote will be chairman of the planning committee with Palle Christensen assisting. They said that passports will be necessary for U.S. travelers and should be obtained well in advance. The Holiday Inn in Amsterdam can make "personal travel plans" to suit any FFS member who wishes to tour other areas in Europe - more about this will be forthcoming in Fresh News. The program of events being planned for Aug. 4-6 will be similar to previous annual conventions. The Saturday night concert will be in the historic Concertgebouw, and transportation will be provided.

Pasqual, who attended on behalf of the Holiday Inn at Amsterdam, presented some slides featuring the hotel and surrounding attractions. He said there is a 6 hour time difference from Eastern Standard time. Mike Collins from Texas described his experiences as a frequent traveler to Amsterdam, complete with some hints and suggestions. Hotel rooms will be approximately \$150.00 or 130 euros per night which includes a breakfast buffet. A brief question and answer period followed.

For those not able to go to Europe in 2005, there may be a stateside gathering of FFS in conjunction with a Freshmen performance somewhere. It was also noted that Ray Brown is considering planning a 2006 convention.

President Purvis stated that FFS is financially healthy and the Music Mart is a good part of that. He said that a new CD is being made from a radio broadcast on the BBC from 1962 that includes June Christy and the Four Freshmen. This recording was discovered by a European member. FFS member Paul Halac "cleaned up" the sound, and Ross Barbour has written the liner notes and recorded them at the end of the album. Hopefully it will be ready before Christmas. John Bangs is also working with Collectors' Choice on another FF double album. Watch Fresh News for available new music as it arrives in the Music Mart.

A member asked about the role of IVI with the Freshmen. Tom answered that Dina Sheets Roth, of IVI, would be on the panel of "Fresh" Talk this afternoon to answer such questions. Another member asked how to obtain needed promotional materials for those working the CD sales table at FF concerts. Tom replied that the state reps or regional reps would help with this.

In closing, Tom gave a brief report on Chick Trafford's condition. The Freshmen can win the Downbeat poll for best vocal group and Hall of Fame if all members buy a magazine and vote - Don Boland reminded all to do this.

## Friday Night Concert at the Convention (7/30/04) by Ann Smith (TX Coord.)

To our great delight, Vince performed with a big string bass (instead of the usual stick bass). The sound was wonderful and he plans to use it more, when travel arrangements allow for it. It's much more cumbersome and hard to cart around than the stick bass - which is why they've used the stick bass for several years now.

Many of us had already been at the convention for two days when we finally got to hear our beloved Four Freshmen - live. There were plenty of Freshmen CD's and videos playing throughout the day and night - plus the usual group of us singing our hearts out around the piano at every opportunity. But this is what we came for, and the moment was finally here. As always, the Freshmen not only delivered a great program, but exceeded our expectations. The guys opened with a lively version of "Something's Got To Give," followed by a catchy rendition of "You Stepped Out of a Dream," and then a haunting "Invitation." Next we were treated to an energetic "Young and Foolish" arranged by Greg Stegeman, who was introduced from the audience. "You've Got Me Crying Again" was accompanied by Vince on the big string bass, using the bow - such a lush sound. "If I Only Had A Brain" is a solo by Brian with some of Vince's crowd-pleasing whistling thrown in for good measure, plus a duet between Curtis on the horn and Vince on the bass.

At this point the members of the group introduced each other to the audience. One quip was made that "we enjoyed Vince's whistling, and otherwise accidental humor." The guys have a great time ad-libbing - and the banter between them is a lot of fun. Brian also commented on the fact that Vince owns a house in Las Vegas and lives with his parents in California. (He's visiting them while they have some time off from traveling.)

"Early Autumn" was followed by a Brian arrangement of "My One and Only Love." "You Call It Madness, I Call It Love" was also arranged by Brian and featured an angelic solo by Vince. "There Is No Greater Love" from the Voices In Love album led into "Every Time We Say Goodbye." Before the song title was announced, Bob said "Okay, what album is this next song from? Aha, stumped you, didn't I?"

The last few songs of the evening were sung at one mike only, no drums - just bass, trumpet and guitar. They included two Brian arrangements: Hoagy Carmichael's "Skylark," "That Old Feeling" (with a whistling solo by Vince), and "There Will Never Be Another You." We were treated to one encore, even though we begged for more - "We'll Be Together Again" - a fitting close since we would, indeed, hear the fabulous Freshmen again the next night.