

Saturday Night Concert at the Convention (8/31/04)

by Ann Smith (TX Coord.)

Performing to a crowd of 375 adoring fans, the Freshmen opened the show with an energetic rendition of "Day In, Day Out." There's always a round of applause at the recognition of any long time Freshmen favorite, especially with this crowd. The audience was entranced by the performance of favorites "Angel Eyes" and "M'amselle." A bouncy rendering of "Rain" included a duet with Brian on guitar and Curtis on trumpet. This was followed by "Early Autumn," which featured a vocal solo by Bob, along with a long a cappella passage. It was very mellow and held the audience spellbound.

Next, Vince treated us to his vocal solo of "Around the World" - a real crowd pleaser. A new song for this group, "I Wish I Knew," was followed by a very upbeat "Somebody Loves Me." Then gears shifted into "I Could Have Told You." We were treated to a perennial favorite, "Route 66," which featured a wild trumpet solo by Curtis, with Brian playing bass and Vince switching to guitar. The beautiful harmonies of "It Could Happen To You" led us into another favorite, "In This Whole Wide World." An energetic version of "Walking My Baby Back Home" was followed by an equally energetic "Something's Got To Give." "Skylark" was entrancing with its lush harmonies. An upbeat rendition of "That Old Feeling" featured one of Vince's whistling solos - always a crowd pleaser. "How Can I Tell Her." next on the program, is from the movie "Lucy Gallant."

"There Will Never BE Another You" was very peppy and featured a hot trumpet by none other than our own Curtis Calderon. As a side note, we are so very fortunate to have added this most recent Freshmen to the current group. His wonderful trumpet and pleasing voice can be heard to the heart's delight on his new CD, "Lost Soul," which is available from the Music Mart.

"Poinciana" is one of the top favorite Freshmen songs of all time. It always sparks a round of applause the minute the audience recognizes it. On this song Brian and Vince once again switched instruments, with Brian on bass and Vince playing guitar - demonstrating the musical versatility present in this group. "You Stepped Out Of A Dream" is from the "Five Trombones" album, which was the all time biggest hit album. A beautiful arrangement by Vince of "September Song" was followed by the Freshmen's all time biggest hit single "Graduation Day."

Next we heard from the 7 Freshmen: where the Freshmen alumni came up and performed with the current group. This included the addition of Ross Barbour, Ray Brown and Greg Stegeman. Although Bob Flanigan was at the convention, he was out of the room at the time and missed performing with the composite group, much to our disappointment. The extended group treated us to "Day By Day" and "Blue World." Michelle LeGrand's beautiful "How Do You Keep The Music Playing" featured Bob in an awesome vocal solo that was a real show stopper, as always.

An unbelievably energetic "After You've Gone" was followed by an a cappella rendition of "Their Hearts Were Full Of Spring." The Freshmen wrapped up with, appropriately enough, "We'll Be Together Again." Members of the audience spontaneously sang along with the Freshmen as they performed the last song of the evening, "And So It's Over." Let's hope that never happens. That's what we're here for - to keep it going forever.

