

## **“Aren’t We Lucky?”**

**by Ross Barbour**

I don’t mean “Lucky” that we enjoyed a great reunion and that we are still around to enjoy it. Well...that too.

But, we Freshmen didn’t even know when we went into Free Trade Hall in Manchester, England, Feb. 25, 1961, that someone was going to record us. We’re lucky that they would discover their tapes 45 years later and send them to us so we could put it on a CD for you to play on that CD player your grandchildren bought for you.

Who knew 45 years ago we’d be lucky enough to have grandchildren? Anyway....

There’s a new jewel of a CD waiting for you at the Music Mart. First on the disc is “Return To Romance.” You have it on an L.P. but you couldn’t get it for your CD player until now.

Second on that disc is “Live in Manchester, England.” It’s that 1961 show!

You can guess part of what went on. Bob Flanigan and his fun went over big with the crowd. Ken Albers didn’t say anything but, Wow! he played so well, and I tried to maintain a semblance of order.

Bill Comstock had been with us just 5 months, and we had re-rehearsed all those things - Day By Day, Fools Rush In, etc. They were happening brightly. I think Bill Comstock’s “Blues In The Night” is the best we ever got it recorded. We were touring England with June Christy and a very good band, Bob Miller and the Millermen. Whoever recorded our half of the show failed to record June and the band in the first half.

At the end of our show we do “Walkin’ Shoes” with June and the band. Boy! That one really romps! June is in there singing, but you can’t hear her because of us. There’s one little place where she giggles between riffs.

The master tape was recorded near the bass player in the band, so Paul Halac filtered and strained, mixed and enhanced until this performance comes through in fine shape.

I think we are all very lucky to have all of the above!



**Friday, August 25, 2006**

**Ross Barbour**

Four buses full of people came into Carnegie Music Hall and seated themselves in the front few rows.

The lady in charge of the hall gave us all a history lesson about the 700 pipe organs and the 700 libraries Andrew Carnegie gave to the world.

Then I said “It’s a shame you people can’t be here on stage with me. You could see the balconies.” The lady said “That’s OK” so they came on stage and someone said “We should sing! Then we could say we sang at Carnegie Hall.” We did a whole chorus of “Blue World”....more than 150 of us. We’ll all remember that moment!