

West Palm Beach, Florida

by Barbara and Charlie Dana, So. Florida Reps

The Freshmen were booked into the prestigious Arturo Sandoval Jazz Club at The Deauville Resort Hotel on Miami Beach at the end of July. This upscale club has only been open for about four months. It is well run and apparently has a good reputation. The Manager "Ziggy" was pleased to have The Four Freshmen there and told us that they are looking forward to having them back. There were two performances each night - 9 PM and 11 PM.

The Freshmen were introduced by local radio personality Stu Grant, who hosts a Sunday morning Jazz Brunch show on 94 FM/WLVE. He plays mostly jazz and big band favorites. We had a chance to chat with him between sets. He really likes The Freshmen sound and was impressed with them. (Who isn't?)

When the Freshmen popped up onstage they looked great. One wonders how they can always look 'perky' when they travel so much. Of course when they started to sing everyone stopped chatting and were held captive by their wonderful harmonies. About 2/3 way through the first set, we were given a special treat. Arturo Sandoval himself came onstage and played what Curtis called a "pocket trumpet." Of course everyone (including The Freshmen) were excited at this unexpected event. Curtis and Arturo did some 'friendly dueling' during "There Will Never Be Another You." Our "Mr. Calderon" held his own with the famous trumpeter while Brian and Vince kept a light background tempo on guitar and bass.

Our thanks to Bob Ferreira for mentioning that their fan club, The Four Freshmen Society, was here..."both of them"! We had a chance to talk with some patrons and club employees between sets. Roberta & David Ehrenreich (FFS members from Miami) were in the audience. They had heard of the performance on the radio that day. Being long time followers of The Freshmen they were delighted to have them appearing in the Miami area.

Our waiter was very attentive and he really liked the Freshmen. "Amy," a lovely young woman selling CD's and tickets to the performances, had heard the Freshmen during their sound-check in the afternoon. She liked their sound and was interested in hearing all about the guys. At the end of the evening we gave both of these nice young folks autographed publicity photos. Mr. Sandoval is starting a 'performers photo wall' in the club and Charlie got the guys to sign one just for him. When Charlie presented it to him, Mr. Sandoval gave Charlie a poster of himself autographed with "**Long Live The Freshmen**" and signed by **Arturo Sandoval**. We have framed it and intend to bring it to the convention for an auction item.

The 11:00 PM set had a larger audience than the earlier one but they were equally appreciative. Once again, midway through the performance, Mr. Sandoval appeared onstage to the delight of everyone. The next night was almost the same, except Arturo only appeared at the 11:00 PM show. We were thrilled to have seen the Freshmen for all 4 performances and came home feeling "How lucky can one get?"

We thank I.V.I. and The Arturo Sandoval Jazz Club for bringing the Four Freshmen here.

Being FFS reps in south Florida keeps us busy, but we have such fun!

OUTDOORS IN COLUMBUS OHIO

by Dick Hatfield, Ohio Rep

Seventy break seventy, answered Vince Johnson at the table where we were setting up to sell CDs on the evening after the Fourth of July. Two long shows, seventy minutes each.

The locale was the luxuriant Easton Towne Center, outside, in kind of a courtyard that allowed patio patrons at the Brio Tuscan Grille to enjoy the show with food and beverage. The rest of us brought lawn chairs or grabbed an available park bench.

Man, you can hear more than forty Freshmen favorites in two hours and twenty minutes. And we did. And the weather cooperated with mid-seventies and light breezes that made the flags flap in the air. The only hindrance was when a few Harleys went by revving their loud pipes during September Song. When the song was over, Bob Ferriera cracked up the audience by telling them the difference between a Harley Davidson and a vacuum cleaner. You can get the answer from Bob next time you see him.

I was glad the Harley drivers didn't hear him or we might have had an all-out Hell's Angels riot on our hands. That would have been a Freshmen First.

Society member Guy Infante and I sold a good amount of In Session and Live in Holland CDs and answered many questions about the Freshmen of new and old. One lady stopped by just to say "This is the best evening I've had in a long while."

A singing group called The 4 Jays, from Erie PA, also stopped by and enjoyed the concert. They said they'd be at the convention next month in Pittsburgh. So will we, and we'll see you there.

