



STAN KENTON: The Studio Sessions

covers Kenton's 40 years on record - every recording date, every release, every version, unissued recordings, studio transcriptions, matrix numbers, alternate takes, dates, places, people - thousands of facts, including things even the most ardent Kenton fan doesn't know. Numerous comments by Kenton and many of the musicians who worked with him over the years add new insight into this remarkable man and the enthralling music he gave us. There are detailed notes about every official Kenton LP recording. The book also includes many samples of original documentation from the files of Capitol Records. 50 years of determined, painstaking research by lifelong enthusiasts Michael Sparke and Pete Venudor have brought us this spectacular and very readable discography of the official recordings of Stan Kenton. *Studio Sessions* has received the highest praise from Kenton fans, as well as jazz critics and jazz record producers.

8-1/2 x 11 trade paper - 240 pages - \$32.95 plus \$4.50 s/h.

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And So It's Over

Better words than this, taken from Ross Barbour's song title, could not be found to describe the conclusion of PORTLAND 2007, the latest in a series of 19 annual Four Freshmen Society conventions. Portland 2007 was the first ever West Coast FFS convention and a better site than Portland, Oregon would have been very hard to find. Guests arrived from all corners of the country as well as many from overseas.

Without exception the music, beginning with the Thursday evening jam session, the dinner music by Trish Hatley's bands during both banquets to the last notes heard at the end of the convention was excellent. The music and stage director for the convention, Trish Hatley, had obviously spent many hours planning and directing those events. Ross Barbour and Bob Flanigan shared the master of ceremonies chores to the enjoyment of everyone. During the jam session we saw as many as nine former and current Freshmen singing together. They were Rod Henley, Ray Brown, Greg Stegeman, Bob Flanigan, Ross Barbour and of course Bob, Brian, Vince and Curtis. Rod performed with a piano and vocal solo that was excellent. Ray Brown was at his best with vocal solos that everyone enjoyed. Greg was also roundly applauded for his presentation as well.

Trish, Hans and Phil were joined by Ken French on drums to provide some excellent backing for the other performers that came to entertain the FF fans. Suzanne Dumawe returned to sing for us. Many of you will remember her from Pittsburgh when her CD player, that she planned to use for backup, failed and Curtis came to her rescue with a nice piano accompaniment, much to her surprise and relief. Barbara Lusch from Portland treated us to her vocal talents and Gail Pettis was another recent FFS member who offered some very excellent vocalizing to a very attentive audience. Two of Trish's long time fans Jim Richeson and Gardner Taylor had a great time with a vocal duet that everyone enjoyed. Some say this was the best jam session yet at a Four Freshmen convention.

The opening acts for both of the FF concerts were bands that Trish regularly performs with and each is totally different from the other so there was not too much of any one group. Both were very well received as was Trish and this was evidenced by the number of her new CDs that were purchased through the efforts of Music Mart Director, Bob Lininger. Of course

Trish is a FFS member who is fast becoming well known by other society members. Trish also shared her groups with those who wished to stay and listen or dance after the planned FF concerts and this was a first for these conventions. An added attraction also on one evening following the Four Freshmen concert was an 18 piece big band called the Swing Machine led by Art Abrams who's name was unfortunately misspelled in the program and we apologize to Art for that error. That error however did not diminish the performance of that band and more dancers than were expected took the opportunity to use the portable dance floor that was placed adjacent to the stage.

All in all, this convention went off without a blemish and the comments from those who ventured to Portland indicated that this was one of the best conventions ever if not the best. The Portland 2007 host committee can be proud of their accomplishment. Each member took on tasks that were mostly new to them and worked hard to make it all fit together. This included the registrars, John and Barbara Osterholm, publicity and promotion Loren Knutsen, acquiring the goodie bags Shirley Maney, venue selection Dick Bass, organizing the bus tour of Portland Fred Dorsett, the making of the centerpieces Carmen Merritt, procuring the red polo shirts Bill Wilson, the idea of the gift coffee mugs from Music Director Trish Hatley. Legal advice retired lawyer Dan Ellis also served as moderator of our committee meetings. Keeping of the records Secretary Rodger Magnuson and keeping the whole program moving was done by Co-Chairs Gil Peterson our treasurer with the help of Marsha Leaptrott and Keith Rydman our hotel coordinator.

The design artwork chosen for the gift mugs was the program cover art by Dan de la Torre on one side and the first ever LP record jacket of the FF Voices In Modern from 1954 on the opposite side.

Of course we must not forget that the reason for the convention is those four guys who are carrying on the tradition of the previous 21 groups of Four Freshmen, Bob, Vince, Brian and Curtis, the world's greatest vocal group.

And So It's Over really does apply to Portland 2007 but the melody lingers on as the familiar tune says. Until Indianapolis in 2008 take care and stay Fresh.