

FRESH TALK FROM INDY

by Dick Baldwin

Short Takes from the 60th Anniversary Weekend

The FFS at its best!

ACCOLADES FOR AUGUST 21-23:

The Lantz Team, Neil & Sara Lou, blew the lid off for 600 registrants at the Indianapolis Sheraton City Centre Hotel. The schedule, accommodations and financial reward for/to the Society were Five Stars. The FFS is on an annual convention run of exemplary leadership and committee work. Be ready for more of the same in Atlanta '09 with the Cones. That there is no other jazz support group in the nation continues. The Freshmen phenomenon is full speed ahead with no end in sight. Thanks Team Lantz for everything!

NEW/OLD TUNES:

The Saturday night FF concert in Meridian Ballroom had a special twist-tunes from the past dressed up for the occasion. Everything perked up with versions of - I Could Have Told You, Please Remember, Give Me The Simple Life, After You, Easy Street, I Wish I Knew, Little Girl Blue, plus How Can I Tell Her. If I missed one, I was talking with Dr. Bobby Fong, President of Butler U. He was hearing his first ever live sound of the Freshmen.

THURSDAY NIGHT:

Another Ray Brown Production opened a lively weekend. The 7:30 "Jam Session" featured the Mark Buselli Quartet around FF Alumni and Society members. Mark's trumpet/flugelhorn led the way. Rod Henley did an accomplished tribute to the late Mike Beisner. Yas' trombone gets better each convention. Does he really want to lead a band? Professor Buselli, former Director of Jazz Studies at Butler U., holds a similar position now at Ball State in Muncie. He can play!

INDIANAPOLIS JAZZ ORCHESTRA:

Friday's first concert feature was the IJO, a Kenton-influenced power ensemble with fire. The big Ork played nine tunes to get everyone's attention, mostly Stan's favorites. The Freshmen came on for the second shift and did five songs with the Ork before downsizing for their own 13 selections. The Kenton Sounds and the FF always results in a Big Night. It was!

CONVENTION IN PRINT:

The official program piece for the Indy weekend was excellent. Full of photos and Freshmen memorabilia. In fact, the photos of the leading Committee members assisted with meeting the Hoosier work force-Good Folks!

KEEP SINGING!

The Wannabees continue to shine with Bill Martin's piano and the advice and classroom leadership of Dr. Ross Barbour.

DINNER JAZZ:

The Saturday evening dining was made even more tasty by the Monika Herzig Trio. Dr. Herzig teaches music theory, piano and music business at Indiana University.

FRIDAY TOUR:

Covering the city and historic Indianapolis Motor Speedway-all commentators reported-Excellent.