

FRESH LINKS

Atlanta convention :
<http://twitter.com/ffanfare>

Whether you were at the Atlanta convention or not, you still can take in many of the sights and sounds.

The convention was the "best covered" in the history of these gathering, with lots of videos and audio recordings that were made available via the Internet during and after the convention..

There also were frequent daily news updates from the convention posted online via the Four Freshmen FanFare site on Twitter. Those still can be found at <http://twitter.com/ffanfare>; you don't have to have a Twitter account to access them.

Here's a rundown of all the video and audio recordings available online that we know about, with descriptions and links. These simplified Web links have been created specially for this article and will take you to either the Four Freshmen Society Web site or YouTube.:

Thursday Jam Session:
<http://tinyurl.com/ffsatlantajam>

FF conventions begin with Thursday night jam session where fans are encouraged to perform. Since FFS members really care about the Four Freshmen sound, songs from the Great American Songbook and both big band and small group jazz, that and the very informal format of this event makes it a favorite of many. This year's lineup included the Greg McLean Quartet to back up the performers. They were Greg McLean (trumpet), Mark Tucker (piano), John Ivy (bass) and Bill Norman (drums). Four Freshmen alumnus Ray Brown again was the evening's host. Follow the above link to open a FFS Web site page where you can click any tune/artist listed to hear it.

Friday Dinner Show: <http://tinyurl.com/ffsatlantafr>

The best-selling Four Freshmen album of all time was "Four Freshmen and Five Trombones". That Friday night, for the first time anywhere, the Freshmen performed tunes from that original LP, with the rhythm section (and, of course, five trombones) of the Georgia Perimeter College GPC Jazz Ensemble. The band also performed four numbers alone and then welcomed the Four Freshmen to the stage and backed them for 11 more tunes.

Click on the appropriate link which at the above Web page to hear each individual tune or scroll down the page to watch the 72-minute video from the session.

Chick Trafford Memorial:
<http://tinyurl.com/ffsatlantafr>

Before the Friday night concert, outgoing FFS President Dick Baldwin and FFS Midwest Communications Director Wayne Corey spoke briefly about longtime Fresh News editor Chick Trafford, who died after a lengthy illness just before the convention. You can watch the video of this memorial to Chick on this page.

Saturday Dinner Show:
<http://tinyurl.com/ffsatlantasateve>

Saturday's concluding concert following the dinner was "all Freshmen all the time," performing self-contained in two sets. Click on the appropriate link on this page to hear any tune from both sets.:

Yoshi's, San Francisco "A performing arts center, with a menu"

Thus did Bob Ferreira describe the venue for the Labor Day weekend concerts in SF. Not merely a jazz club, Bob told the nearly sold out crowds at the 3 concerts on Sept 5 and 6. A fine facility with great sound, great staff, and great food and drink; "... try the pot stickers... and the green drink with the whipped cream and cherry on top...", Bob chided the audience, as food was being served to attendees seated around intimate tables, during performances.

Not only was it a holiday weekend, the Bay Bridge was closed that long weekend for retro construction; so it was unknown what kind of turn out there would be for the concerts. No need to worry, as FF fans were not deterred from turning out to hear the boys. Sat and Sun night performances were sell outs; and the Sunday matinee crowd was more than half capacity. Nearly 900 heard the boys that weekend; and CDs were totally sold out.

One lady came dressed all in blue, including her lovely hat. She said later that she wanted to stand and sing with the boys during their rendition of "Little Girl Blue", and "It's a Blue World"; and she wondered why Vince didn't play the "big bass, and do more whistling".

Thanks to Y Yoshi's policy on a kid's price, there were several young children attending the Sun matinee, whose parents paid only \$5 to introduce the FF sound to their kids.

Society members Bob and Sue Goodell attended all 3 performances; while many, many in the audience raised their hands when asked, how many are attending a FF concert for the first time. Eight people in the audience became new Society members. The crush of fans at the Society table after the Sun night concert required The Four, the reps, and the expert help of lovely Jennifer, Vince's friend, to handle the rush of sales, questions and autographs.

In addition to the superb music and setting, other highlights included: Curtis's solo horn work, and his rapport with the audience, commending them for being such a large, enthusiastic group, unlike many "sleepy Sunday night audiences"; Brian's great guitar and vocal work, and his agreement with the assessment of the uniqueness of San Francisco's non cookie cutter ambiance, saying he had his "Subway sandwich on a different kind of bread here"; and, of course, Bob's strong leadership on vocals and drums, and dealing with business details.

Next on the schedule for Northern California: April 8 at the Sacramento Community Center Theater; Apr 9 at the Napa Valley Opera House; and April 10 at the restored art deco El Campanil Theatre in Antioch.

And, we hope for more Y Yoshi' s... .

Kermit and Hanna Sveen, Northern California reps



L to R: Curtis Calderon, Vince Johnson, Ross Barbour, Rod Henley, Brian Eichenberger, Bob Ferreira, Bob Flanagan.