

Art Park in Lewiston NY

Moe Byrne, FFS Canada Representative

We arrived at Art Park in Lewiston NY after an horrendous hour and a half at the Lewiston bridge coming from Ontario (damn that Canadian dollar) but it was worth it to see and hear the Fabulous Four Freshmen again. This was my first time to see this beautiful facility and I was impressed by the size of the auditorium, the acoustics, and the helpful staff.

The Freshmen were in top form and performed a well-rounded selection starting with *Plenty of Money and You* from the new album, selections from their *In Session* album, and *Live Trombones*.

Curtis talked about the brand new album of love songs (aptly titled *Love Songs*) with mostly never-before recorded songs. We heard *Stardust*, *A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square*, and *I Can't Believe That You're In Love With Me*.

It was nice to meet so many fans and hear their stories and memories of the Freshmen of old and judging by the sales of the CDs they were delighted with the show. All-in-all we heard the greatest hits of the Four Freshmen plus *Surfer Girl*, on a beautiful summer day in Lewiston, NY. Then went home to Toronto well-pleased and ready to face that dreaded border crossing.

Rocky Mountain Alto (High)

Paul and Monica Daniggelis

We didn't know what to expect. It was our first trip to the Spencer Theater in Alto, New Mexico. But it was our umpteenth visit to see the Four Freshmen. We have been fans (however isolated) of the fabulous foursome since that night at the now defunct Café Charmont in Juarez, Mexico way back in 1955. We got to chat with the late great Ross Barbours. Even motion picture star Jane Withers made an appearance to watch her new husband, Ken Errair, sing fourth voice with the Freshmen and wail on his trumpet.

We left our hotel in Ruidoso and kept climbing into the wilderness. The winding road obstructed our view so we saw few cars on the road. This is Lincoln Forest country and we had that sinking feeling that we were the only ones going to this concert. Finally, we left the wooded area behind in favor of rolling hills. Had we passed the freeze line where trees don't grow? I didn't think so. What I wondered was how our guys could sing at this altitude? You need oxygen to sing.

At last, the modern structure we had visited via Google Earth appeared and there seemed to be many cars nearby. But this was adjacent to a golf course. Perhaps this was the remnants of a golf crowd? Not to worry. The parking was between golf and Spencer's and we saw some folks headed for the concert hall. We made our way inside to a milling crowd in the lobby. I enquired of an attendant how ticket sales were going. Sold out!! They even added some extra seats in the orchestra section to accommodate the burgeoning crowd. I was elated.

We had gotten our tickets early and were seated in row B, center; perfect view of the guys. My wife, naturally, noticed that Bob Ferreira and Brian E. were wearing wedding bands. That was news to us. Our heartiest congratulations to the guys. And then, that familiar Freshmen sound filled the hall; the boisterous *Day In, Day Out* followed by the melancholy *Graduation Day*. I couldn't help but reflect on the recent graduations of a couple of New York nieces.

The guys sprinkled some new arrangements (Thank you Mr. Eichenberger) into the mix of all-time favorites. Curtis Calderon and Bob Ferreira handled most of the audience interaction duties with great good humor. If it had been winter, Curtis might have melted the nearby snow-capped Sierra Blanca with his high-toned trumpet riffs; even triple tonguing here and there (*There Will Never be Another You*). Wow!

And then there's Vince Johnson. What can you say about Vince and his "veejing" vocalizations harmonizing with his bass instrument (*Something's Got to Give*)? I know a lot of you folks out there love to call it "scat" but that term should be reserved for the "vocalization of nonsense syllables." Vince has a broad range of sounds, i.e. whistling (That Old Feeling), humming - other buzzing sounds that can only be described by the all-inclusive eponymous expression, veejing, named for Vince.

I love it when the Freshmen go off-mike for an "a cappella" arrangement. This is harmony at its purest. One of their best is the enchanting *Always Chasing Rainbows*. Then came the new arrangement of *Stardust* that had the crowd quivering in their seats. I think Brian was responsible for this gem as well. What incredible talent these guys have. I had hoped to hear Brian do his whimsical version of *If I Only Had a Brain* from Wizard fame. Alas, no. The crowd would have loved it though. Well, you just can't squeeze it all into a single concert. And, we never get enough of Bob Ferreira's mellow fourth voice but he had his moments this night.

(Continued on page 9)

FRESH MEMORIES

By Barb Meyers

Something new was introduced for everyone's pleasure - the telling of Fresh Memories. It made a hit with 185 Fresh Fans attending.

Mel Meyers was MC, with Sue Barbours, Rod Henley, Greg Stegman and Bill Comstock sharing their memories.

Sue started it all by telling a sweet story about the struggles they went through at the beginning. The other three shared their memories and got the audience to share as well. Geoffrey Comstock and Gary Barbours shared childhood memories as sons of two of the Fab Four.

What was supposed to be an hour ran a little over with stories yet to tell. I can't wait to hear the left-over stories next year.