

Nashville, Indiana was FABULOUS!

by Dave Mehl

The Four Freshmen's gig on August 21 in Nashville, Indiana was FABULOUS!

After six long months with no gigs because of the COVID-19 virus, the guys were great! The audience was extremely enthusiastic from the first number on and gave spontaneous and hearty standing ovations at the end and after the encore, *In This Whole Wide World*.

There was a surprise. Curtis Calderon was back as a sub. He played guitar and sang the 2nd part. We all know he is a very gifted musician---but on guitar too? You better believe it

And, he also played trumpet on several numbers, reaching the stratosphere on some and did some tasty and most enjoyable "dueling trumpet" tunes with Jake Baldwin.

The voices blended together extremely well! The program was ambitious and well thought out, starting with *Day In, Day Out* featuring an impressive trumpet solo by Jake and instantly winning him a lot of admirers.

They did a variety of "old Freshmen standards" like *You Stepped Out of a Dream*, *Angel Eyes* and *Poinciana*. *It's a Blue World* brought me to near-tears. It was the best rendition I have heard in all my years (since 1948) as a fan.

Some of the newer things were *Let Me Love You*, *So Danco Samba*, *Ain't Seen Nothin' Like You* and *Misguided Optimism*.

I was particularly interested in hearing Jake Baldwin for the first time. Wow! He sang the third part strongly, sang several tasty solos and played exceptional jazz trumpet. He played bass trumpet on a few tunes, including *Day by Day* which reminded one of Bob Flanigan's trombone. He is a great addition to the group.

Tommy's lead voice was pitch-perfect and strong. He sang a solo tune, *Strolling*, a Horace Silver song that Tommy adapted singing the second trumpet part with lyrics while Jake played the top melody part. It was originally written for two trumpets. The audience loved it.

Bob's vocal solos were right on and he played drum solos on *There Will Never Be Another You* and on Jake's original horn composition entitled, *Misguided Optimism*, a real cool tune. His comments were informative and thoughtful with just the right amount of humor thrown in.

The Brown County Playhouse was a perfect venue, both acoustically and for their diligence in protecting the audience from the virus. We need to get the guys back there soon, as it is so very close to where the original players came from.

Overall, It was a most enjoyable and memorable evening and truly a treat to be there!

**Do your best to join them in their upcoming shows.
You will be so glad you did!**

- Sunday, November 15 in Largo, Florida
- Monday, November 16 in Fort Myers, Florida
- Sunday, January 24 in Malibu, California.

Did you guess the names correctly from the previous issue?

