

On to NEW Horizons

by Curtis Calderon

Well folks, it's been about a year and a half since I joined the group and am very happy with how we are doing musically. I think we are finally starting to live up to our potential as a group. We still have a long way to go, but if this last year has been any indication of where we are going musically, I look forward to see what the next few have in store for us. I know it may be hard for some of you FFS members who may have been used to having more direct contact with the group as far as booking and general information, but I ask you to hang in there and keep faithful. IVI has their way of doing their job so we trust in them. Bob Flanigan is doing very well and is working hard on getting us great gigs, including an upcoming gig to the Netherlands. 2003 is the beginning of what will become yet another generation of FF longevity. I say this knowing that we have started to make a few more waves here and there in the business...

New York. Our gig there went very well and I have had several e-mails from young people telling me how excited they were after our shows. These people are around an average age of 35 and had never really heard of the Freshmen before. They range from a musician, to a doctor, to a secretary, etc.

I do believe, just as the groups of the 50's and 60's, we have a market large enough to support us through another generation and then some. I know there are many, many Four Freshmen fans who don't even know we travel and play still. It's evident by each concert we give. I have at least one couple come up to me after every gig and say they used to listen to us long ago and were surprised to know we were still playing. I also have faith that if we are successful in NY, we will be successful across the U.S. That is the staging ground for so many great pop, rock and jazz acts. So, needless to say, I'm excited to play there more and more and build the FF reputation back to what is was and beyond. We are well on our way as I see it!

So, one last thought, and that's about our appreciation for everyone involved in the society and for the hard work you put into the voluntary efforts and for all of those who support us by just listening to our music. Like the old saying goes, "without you, there's no us!" So with this in mind, I have an idea for the upcoming convention in appreciation for the FFS. I'm not sure how we would do this and Chick may have an idea, but I would like to suggest a top 7 list of tunes you all would like to hear for the convention. We have lots of new things upcoming and that we are doing at shows, but for the convention, I think it would be great for us to do some of your favorites. We will have a few months to learn any of the original arrangements we might not know. I would also like for you to feel that even though we are working to move the FF ahead musically, we still have the utmost respect for the arrangements that made this group. I believe in innovation and the forward moving of music and that means new arrangements and new songs, but never forgetting the past. Anyhow, if there is a way online or through snail mail to suggest everyone's top 7 songs they would like to hear, we would be more than happy to do them for you. So, I'm looking forward to Orlando and to many more years of conventions. For those of you who are on the fence about coming to the convention I would strongly suggest coming to this convention,

not only because it's a great city where there's lots to do, but because I think this group has a magic of its own and it would be worth coming to see if you haven't seen us yet or been to a convention.

Well, I hope that this finds everyone in good health and enjoying life. I look forward to seeing all of you at concerts and the convention and the upcoming cruise.

Editor's Note: FFS'ers! Send your list any way you can and we will tally them...and get them to Curtis! Let's say the deadline should be July 1st!

Member Suggests 7 Songs to Embellish FF Library

by Mike Collins (TX)

Now that the FF are performing Bill Comstock's wonderful arrangement of "Early Autumn," here are some other terrific songs never (as far as I know) performed by the 22 groups, which would bring the quartet back into its jazz roots.

My 2003 wish is that the FF consider renditions of "Round Midnight," "Lover Man (Gal)," "Body and Soul," "You Don't Know What Love Is," "Begin the Beguine," "Love For Sale" and "Malaguena."

I'd write the charts myself if I could, but since I can't, I won't. Here's hoping somebody can. These standards would last forever.

We Want New CD by the Group #22!

by Yas Ichiura (FFS Japan Rep)

As reported in the previous Fresh News Vol. 16, No. 1, the four young and talented guys provided such a great sound to us in Japan at the end of last year. Many of the FFS members in Japan were so impressed and felt we should share the greatest sound with many other people who lost the chance to hear them. We also want to hear it whenever we like.

Therefore, we decided to donate to FFS so that it would be a part of a movement for producing a new CD by the current group. The following FFS members willingly participated in the donation:

Yutaka Alaki, Hiroshi Gouda, Noriko Hino, Yasuo Hori, Yas Ichiura, Hiroaki Kurahashi, Yoshio Morimoto, Kunio Nishikawa, Susumu Ohnuki, Keiichi Ohtani, Hiroshi Ohtsuka, Yuko Okamoto, Michiko Sakai, Hiroto Sakamoto, Tetsuji Sekiya, Shinzo Shima, Hidetsugu Teshigawara, Shozo Tomura, Masafumi Yamamoto. (Alphabetical order)

On behalf of the above people, I want to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to Brian, Curtis, Vince and Bob for their great harmony and performance to us, and wish that new CD of the group will be realized very soon.