

THE FRESHMEN RETURN TO ROSEBURG, OR

by Gil Peterson

I am delighted to announce that the Freshmen will be appearing here in Roseburg on Thursday, February 13th, 2003, in Jacoby Auditorium at Umpqua Community College.

You may remember that the group appeared here last July as one of our featured attractions for Music On The Half Shell in Stewart Park. It turned out to be a fabulous evening of music for over 1500 music lovers here in Douglas County Oregon.

In my last article for the Fresh News, I mentioned that we were working on a possible return performance for the boys. Well, I am proud to announce, it is a done deal and we couldn't be happier.

Here is how it all came about. We are very fortunate to have an extremely talented individual by the name of Dr. Jason Heald, who is the Chairman of the Fine & Performing Arts Department at Umpqua Community College. Dr. Heald plays a number of instruments and is a prolific composer, arranger, and conductor. He is also a huge fan of modern jazz vocal harmony. He writes and arranges most of the music for the college modern jazz vocal group called the Umpqua Singers. As a matter of fact, Oregon was selected this year to provide the Christmas tree for the White House in Washington and the Umpqua Singers were chosen to accompany the tree and perform at the White House at the lighting ceremony. Of the dozen selections to be performed, ten of them were written and arranged by Dr. Heald. He is a very special individual.

I spoke with Dr. Heald in August about the possibility of having the Freshmen at the college sometime early next year for a workshop and concert. He advised me of an upcoming event held each year at the college called Jazz at Jacoby. At this event, middle school, high school and college music departments from all over Oregon, who have modern jazz vocal harmony groups, are invited to attend a full day of vocal jazz. The whole idea sounded perfect to me. I immediately contacted Dina Sheets-Roth of IVI to see if the 13th of February was still available and if the boys would like to perform again here in Roseburg. The answer to both of those questions was YES and we put the deal together.

Umpqua Community College does not have the funds for such events featuring groups like the Freshmen. Marsha and I decided to fund the entire event in hopes of recapturing a portion of our capital from ticket sales and donations. We feel it is a truly worthwhile endeavor to introduce the Freshmen to 300 to 400 youngsters who will one day possibly become new Freshmen fans and FFS members. Regardless of how it goes, this will be a marvelous musical day for both young and old here in Roseburg.

We currently do not have all the details of the day worked out, but here is what I can tell you for sure now. The workshop will take place around 2:00 PM on the 13th. The evening concert will begin around 7:30. We have a terrific warm-up group called

the Gary Beck Trio to get things started. I have made arrangements at the Windmill Inn for a special group rate of \$55.00 a night for all FFS members. The toll-free number for The Windmill Inn is 1-800-547-4747. We are hoping for a large turnout of FFS members. If you plan to fly in, Eugene and Medford are the two closest cities with commercial airline service. Rental cars are available at both sites. If you plan to drive, Roseburg is on I-5 125 miles north of the California border and 175 miles south of Portland. The tickets are \$10.00 each and the students who attend the workshop will be admitted free. I will need to know as soon as possible if you plan to attend and how many tickets you need. It is my understanding that anything you donate over and above the cost of your tickets will be fully tax deductible. Make your checks out to UCC JAZZ AT JACOBY and send them to me at P.O. Box 240, Winchester, OR 97495-0240. Your tickets will be available for you at the Windmill when you check in. You can let us know of your intentions by E-mail at daisy@rosenet.net. If I can get this information early, I will know how many rooms and tickets to hold for our group. I spoke to Geri Ann Kelly, a travel agent who handles many of the travel arrangements for the Freshmen and I highly recommend her to assist you with your travel arrangements. Her toll-free number is 1-800-355-4135. Weather that time of year here in Oregon is unpredictable. Bring something warm and comfortable.

I am looking forward with great expectations for another sensational evening of Freshmen sounds that have touched our hearts through all these years. Please join us and share the warmth.

Ramada Express Laughlin, Nevada Oct. 12-16 Barbara Meyers, Nevada Rep

As the Nevada Rep., I spent five days with the Four Freshmen selling CD's and talking about the FFS. I had so much fun it had to be illegal! Every concert was a thrill. Just when I thought I had heard it all, they changed an old song and made it new, or they sang a new song and made it memorable. Brian's arrangement of "The Star Spangled Banner," is of course wonderful and leaves the audience in awe. They introduced a new arrangement by Brian called "You Call It Madness, I Call It Love." You must hear this one. They also added "Early Autumn," arranged by Bill Comstock.

The Ramada Inn was a gracious host and they never stopped telling us how happy they were with the unusually good attendance, especially on weekdays.

So here is how it stacked up. "Five days at the Ramada Inn \$200.00, five nights of Four Freshmen concerts a bargain at any price. Five days of getting to know those four exceptional young men and one night of listening to Bob Flanigan talking about his experiences on the road PRICELESS!"