

FRESH TALK by Dick Baldwin (WNY)

THANKS TWICE!

First, June 24 had the Freshmen in Night Town, Cleveland Heights, OH to gather with the Ciraolos, Traffords and other Frosh Friends, again. Remember, Jim Wadsworth, music manager at the Cedar Road high spot, remarked last fall (November 15) that he intended to book the FF "every six months." Hey, Mr. Wadsworth means it!

Second, June 3 was a Big Band date at nearby Artpark in Lewiston, NY, close to the Falls (Freshmen have played the Park on more than one occasion), featuring the Count Basie Orchestra under Grover Mitchell. It was the best I've heard the band since the late Count departed. That distinct Basie beat (re the All-American Rhythm Section) was alive as blond drummer Butch Miles pushed the whole evening. Vocalist Jamie Davis did six tunes that were a combination of the late greats, Joe Williams and Johnny Hartman. Jamie would fit easily at Night Town.

Why wait? Let's get the Freshmen back with the Woody Herman Ork, but following an Erie, PA date with the Dave Stevens Big Band.

Night Town is listed in Downbeat Magazine as one of the top jazz emporiums in the nation. The place cooks six nights a week with good food and headline acts. The Freshmen followed the Ray Brown Trio. That's major league.

With the Convention fast approaching, the event tends to raise things that have to do with music in general and the FF at the forefront. Everyone is awaiting the new CD, plus the next move by the Faux Freshmen. Pittsburgh's Bob Lininger, already well-versed in Freshmen merchandise, will have to run uphill to keep up with the trends of veteran Postmaster John Bangs. Thanks John, for being so darn good all these years.

SHORT TAKES:

1. Did anyone return to the mainland with a down under accent?
2. If I played golf, was president of the club, influential and commanded the treasury, this is the way it would be some August evening - sweet potato fries would be part of the menu, dining with the George Shearing Quintet, and then showtime and dancing with the Four Freshmen and Diana Krall. FFS folks would not believe it really happened, BUT, it could
3. Met the renowned Ken Burns backstage while doing short intro for the University at Buffalo Distinguished Speaker Series April 24. Ken enjoyed the Miles Davis "Blues & Ballads" tunes during the audience seating. He didn't show one slide or clip during his excellent recount of his work. Just talk. A serious documentary filmmaker from New Hampshire, I now know why his PBS *The Civil War*, *Baseball* and *Jazz* were like they were. Is Ross' *Now You Know* adaptable?
4. CD prices may dip, but when? \$17.99 discs and up could downsize to the range \$7.99 to \$10.99. Do it!
5. Did you see the book, *Stardust Melodies: A Biography of 12 of America's Most Popular Songs* by Will Friedwald? Here they are - Of course *Stardust*, then *St. Louis Blues*, *Make The Knife*, *Ol' Man River*, *Body & Soul*, *I Got Rhythm*, *Summertime*, *As Time Goes By*, *Night & Day*, *Stormy Weather*, *My Funny Valentine* and *Lush Life*. Agree?

And, there will be no rest in Reston, Have your best Freshmen stories ready for the weekend and they'll be plenty of material for ongoing "Fresh Talk."

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Freshmen Fans Exchange

The following members are interested in helping others who may need to buy or sell Freshmen LP's, 45's, memorabilia, etc. Send a note or call. If you're looking to buy an album or more enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope to expedite communication.

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