

Greetings Fresh Fans!

by Donna Gallaway (OH Rep)

Enclosed are some photos taken in April at the Mt. Vernon, OH, gig. The guys were great on stage and they did a very nice "Meet & Greet/CD signings."

We look forward to the "new" CD coming out next week WE HOPE! Now, they need to record one with Curtis. This group is super - wish the management team would get them out there more - audiences love them.

See you in VA in August - have a nice summer till then...



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Regarding the versatility and solid musicianship, Flanigan adds: "These young guys are really better musicians than we were because we were mainly self-taught. Brian Eichenberger is such a good lead singer - singing the part I sang without trying to sound like me - and he is making sure the changes are heard. Also, he plays guitar, piano and bass very well. Vince Johnson is an awfully good bassist who also plays guitar and trombone, while Greg Stegeman plays the flugelhorn and trumpet solos and keyboards, and Bob Ferreira's excellent time-feel is crucial."

Greg Stegeman, who was a Freshmen for 12 years before "retiring" recently, declares: "The major attraction of The Freshmen to me as a musician growing up was how well they play instruments accompanying themselves - just total musicianship." He cites the group's wide demographic appeal as an underlying strength - "there's a jazz crowd who appreciates harmonic sophistication and there's the people who love romantic songs."

Dial in the CD and you can just feel the combined emotional heat and high adrenalin rapport between musicians and audience. The slate of tunes reflect the flavors and groove of then and now, from ballads to swingers. Representing the past are many Freshmen favorites. How can you leave without listening to the incomparable balladic milestone *Polka Dots And Moonbeams* or *Graduation Day*, and Bobby Troup's sensitive *This October* or the classic *Route 66*, the bright and popular opener *Day By Day* and shades of the great Bill Holman chart and Peggy Lee's lyric for Duke Ellington's *Concentrate On You* and Sammy Cahn's *I Fall In Love Too Easily* - gorgeous! A change of pace comes with Dave Frishberg's humorous *Can't Take You Nowhere* (Greg is the vocalist); its jazz interest calls for more comment. The melodic blues line T.N.T. is by the late drummer Tiny Kahn (inspired by icon Lester Young's tenor sax solo with Count Basie). It is segued into the shout chorus of Al Cohn's marvelous *Tiny's Blues* (recorded on an Argo LP by ex-Woody Herman star bass player, Chubby Jackson and his big band). Dig Vince Johnson's solo bass notes in synch with light scatting - recalling the late Slam Stewart's celebrated bass solos wedded to his humming and scatting on the same notes. What a super hip heritage The Freshmen have included in the program.

Admired by many singers, Ivan Lins *Love Dance* features a warm, satisfying vocal by Bob Ferreira. It's another "fresh" addition from the contemporary song pool. And beyond several other rewarding songs in the Freshmen mode, there is the a capella finale - the challenging and special *Their Hearts Were Full Of Spring*. Wow!

This CD truly exemplifies what The Freshmen are doing and they articulate the convergence of their varying capacities channeled through the discipline of their alluring signature sound, their collective presence, and the strong values and traditions of The Four Freshmen living legacy. As Bob Flanigan describes: "Each of the Freshmen individually and together wants to sound better than The Four Freshmen have ever sounded - that's their goal and they're working to achieve it." Indeed, they are doing it on their own terms....just watch their smoke in the New Millennium!