

THE MUSIC MART - PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE?

John Bangs, Dir. (WI)

In February 1990 I took over the operations of the FFAS (Four Freshmen Appreciation Society) as it was called then. Starting with \$1,000.00 of my own money, and nothing to sell, I ventured into the unknown. Thanks to Charles Trafford and Ted Driscoll encouraging me I was able to weather the storm.

To build up the FFAS treasury I started making cassette tapes of FF albums, selling them to members only for \$10 each. My first entries in the ledger were: Anne Fairchild \$50, John Poulton \$10, Don Mitchell \$40, Dennis Tate \$35 and Doug Caister \$10. Other than memberships/renewals this was our ONLY source of income. During that period I made/sold some 1500 cassettes. The first new member entry I made was that of Donald Church Jr., first renewal Dave & Joan Wadsworth.

In April of 1990 Ted Driscoll, Charles Trafford, Ted Sitterly, Jr. and I donated \$225.00 each to prepay a video that Ross Barbour had that we could sell. The first video sales were to Charles Trafford & Elmer Hawk. April 18, 1990. Then came the savior, Capitol Collectors Series The Four Freshmen First CD sale to Jim & Sue Pike March 4, 1991 (Jim Pike of the LETTERMEN). Sales continued at a strong pace and the FFAS was now financially solvent, having repaid John Bangs and some of Edd Townsend's overdue printing bills. First year sales 3/19/90 to 3/19/91 \$8,933.39, expenses \$6,394.02.

After the success of the FF Collectors Series it seemed like every label had a FF CD to sell. Several from Japan, US labels- Hindsight, Vipers Nest, Curb, Ranwood, Sound Exchange, Creative World Laserlight, Hitchcock Medio, Foreign CCC, SFM and HMV and some I have forgotten. The past 11 years I have tried to bring them all to you. Then Collectors' Choice Vice President, Gordon Anderson, and I joined to offer FF twofers, 5 Trumpets/Trombones, Voices in Love/Love Lost, Freshman Year/Voices in Latin, Swingers/Stars in our Eyes, In person II/More FF & 5 Trombones, and 24 tracks from the Liberty Years. Five Saxes/Guitars was an IMPORT. Besides the above with great help from Paul Halac, I was able to produce 3 FF CD's and several Videos (some good, some not so good). Then Mosaic made available to us the FF 9 CD Box set.

That is a short story of the past/present. The FUTURE is up to someone who will volunteer to take over the Music Mart as of August 1, 2002. YES, I AM RETIRING. Some members will say too soon, some not soon enough. Between Mosaic and Collectors' Choice, the only NEW music must come from the performing Freshmen group. The group that sings/plays for "Old People and their Parents." Some thanks we get for being loyal to all 21 previous groups. If you are interested in the position of MM call or write our President, Tom Purvis.

Yes, it's over, and thanks to all for being so kind and faithful Freshmen Fans. John Bangs

TEN YEAR PIN MEMBERS

November 1991

Pegge Pasqualone (NY)

December 1991

Charles & Mary Harrington (NH)

Dorothy Rivoli (WA)

January 1992

Richard Bertoch (CA)

Charles Brennaun (AZ)

Charles Curran (SC)

James Dean (CA)

Marc & Laura Hayes (AZ)

Bob Rosenthal (SC)

Cecelia McCoy (OH)

Richard & Gay Schimmoller (OH)

Larry Weeda, Jr., M.D. (TN)

February 1992

Ed & Marilyn Devlin (MA)

Bill Hollingsworth (WA)

Ken Kittelsen (WI)

Francis & Mary Alice Lucier (FL)

Pat & Owen Miller (CA)

Doug Neil (NV)

George Shaner (OK)

The FF at Sun Coast Hotel

Dave & Lorraine (FFS VA)

North Las Vegas Jan. 4-6: Here are some highlights.

In this part of town, Curtis can almost walk to work. It must have put him in a mellow mood to match his flugelhorn. Vince interrupted Brian's OZ solo, "If I Only Had A Brain," with a whistling interlude, AND got a bigger hand than Brian!

Bob's "Love Dance" continues to stop the show. Bob's dad, Sonny Ferreira, made Bob seem all too human with stories of Bob's childhood. Bad Bob!

We were lucky to see The FF rehearse "Indian Summer" at an afternoon soundcheck. The very hard & beautiful N. Riddle chart is back in the book. So many notes. Another new tune is VJ's amusing "Around the World." It is a witty solo with supporting antics, including some barbershop licks.

One night we enjoyed an aftershow afterglow at The Sun Coast. Guests included the Flanigan family in force, The FF of course, and out-of-towners Ted & Marsha Sitterley (AZ), Jim & Anita Bennie (CA), Mel Meyers (AZ), and faraway VT FFS Rep Cheley and Dave Miller. Other notable FFS fans spotted over the three days were Nevada Lt. Governor Lorraine Hunt, Dale & Joan Sheets of IVI, Dina Sheets-Roth & Rob Wilcox of IVI, and FFS Chairman of the Board, Dave Bentley (CT).

Great hotel, warm audience, sparkling entertainment - Sounds like Las Vegas!