

**Dateline: April 5, 2002
Cumberland, Maryland
The Four Freshmen In Concert
by Chick Trafford**

The tri-state area around Cumberland has a series of subscription concerts each year. This Freshmen performance was part of that series. The audience exceeded the number of auditorium seats, requiring the venue to set up perhaps an additional 100 folding chairs to accommodate the huge crowd that attended.

The audience knew "the Freshmen" from days of yore....and were amazed that they had discovered "the fountain of youth"....several people commented that the thrill, this night, was to see and hear young men performing "great American" music. At the intermission the audience buzzed with satisfaction and appreciation of the FRESHMEN SOUND as it applies to the 21st century!

Over and over again, members of the audience just raved, heaping praise on Brian, Curtis, Vince and Bob. Many remembered groups 3 and 4 and that "cut-up Flanigan"....also fondly remembering "Leroy" and Ross Barbour. But their enthusiasm was not because of nostalgia - it was the amazing excellence of the current group.

As keepers of the flame, FFS members were grinning ear-to-ear! And we were well represented. FFS folk from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Washington DC and West Virginia made the trip.



Chick Trafford holding forth at half-time!

**FRESH VIEW FROM THE SUMMIT
IN MT. VERNON, OHIO**

by Donna Gallaway, FFS Sec., OHIO

Memorial Theater in the quaint town of Mt. Vernon was filled to capacity (over 1,000 seats) on April 4th, as the Four Freshmen hit the stage with a rousing "Day In, Day Out." These "Young and Foolish" guys then issued an "Invitation" through the rich chords and haunting drums (what an outstanding arrangement!) to "Fall In Love Too Easily," which the entire audience did - with the obvious talents and music of the Fantastic Four Freshmen!

Brian took us on a musical trip to Oz as he lamented "If I Only Had a Brain," while Vince delighted our ears with his expert whistling - even continuing to "speak in whistle" as Curtis translated the intro to the next tune - "Rain." (Very nice interplay between guitar and flugelhorn on that arrangement.) We were really blown away by the warm, changing colors of "Indian Summer," with the wonderful a cappella part and beautiful solo by Bob on this great NEW addition to the show.

By now, the Freshmen were telling us "Somebody Loves Me," and the audience was saying "We do, We do!" Then Vince launched us on a most pleasurable trip "Around the World," which included some incredible sounds from his stick bass and his vocal chords with contributions from Brian, Bob, and Curtis that ranged from a bit of Barbershop, to Doo Wop and outright Jazz. Another super NEW arrangement!

A couple of "Memory Floggers" later (as Ross calls them) "I Remember You" and "There Will Never Be Another You" - the Freshmen proceeded to "Concentrate On You" with that sensuous Latin beat helped by Bob's "orange." Then it was time for "Walkin' My Baby Back Home." Intermission provided an opportunity for some brisk sales at the FFS table. Just think how many MORE could be sold if we had the new album, too!

The second half of the concert opened with a trip down that old favorite, "Route 66" and the ever lovely "Poinciana." Curtis played a cool muted trumpet on "When Your Lover Has Gone." Then Tom's favorite FF tune, "Whistle Me Some Blues," was enjoyed by all as it led into Bob's beautiful "Love Dance." The ladies always appreciate that one. Several "chestnuts" followed, including "Blue World," which Bob said the FF were dedicating to the memory of the recently deceased Pres. of the local Arts Council - classy move - people were talking about that gesture very positively.

An energetic "After You've Gone" featured a nice bass solo by Vince and slick horn work by Curtis as the show ended. A standing ovation brought the Freshmen back out to "Chasing Rainbows" with no microphones - up close, and personal. Awesome!!

Many FFS members who witnessed this great performance, including the Richardsons, Joneses, Dick Hatfield, and Tom & Delee Purvis, all agreed that these guys are in top form. They are SO GOOD it's almost scary. Bob had mentioned on stage that they feel like Ohio is their second home now - WELCOME HOME FOUR FRESHMEN - come back anytime!!