



# Fresh News

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## Four Freshmen Graduate With Style

by Chuck Berg, excerpted from The Topeka Capital-Journal

The 34th season of the Topeka Jazz Workshop got off with a bang on Sunday with a rousing concert by the forever young Four Freshmen that left some 300 jazz fans shouting: "More!"

The current edition of Freshmen - lead vocalist/guitarist Brian Eichenberger, bassist/trombonist Vince Johnson, drummer/percussionist Bob Ferreira, and trumpeter/flugelhornist Curtis Calderon - pleased at every turn.

If one closed one's eyes, Freshmen evergreens such as "Young and Foolish" sounded as fresh as they did a half century ago when the original group rode atop both the jazz and pop charts.

Seizing the Grand Ballroom stage of the Ramada Inn Downtown, the foursome, clad casually in multi-hued long-sleeved shirts and black slacks, evoked the group's signature tight-harmony blends with pinpoint precise pitch and dramatically varied dynamics.

On its ear-grabbing opener, a brisk romp through "Day In, Day Out," the four beautifully balanced voices dazzled all by flying boldly to the farthest reaches and then dovetailing with an aerodynamic elan worthy of the Blue Angels.

The 1939 Rube Bloom-Johnny Mercer curtain-raiser elicited a huge round of appreciative applause. It was the onset of a musical lovefest punctuated by ovations and knowing nods and, from the Freshmen, two sets of inspired and classy music-making.

While the Freshmen's plushly limned vocal style is its hallmark, one couldn't help but be impressed by the group's effective accompaniments - and arrangements. With most of the jazz confined to the lyric lines of trumpeter Curtis Calderon, whose breathy low register recalled the languid ruminations of 1950s' jazz icon Chet Baker, the quartet's hip but largely perfunctory instrumental backdrops did their job by staying out of the way of the vocals.

On Sunday, the born-again Frosh inhabited the music, thus making it vibrant and alive, and emotionally authentic.

Bravo, Freshmen!



Do You Remember FF Group #2?

<b>Don</b>	<b>Ross</b>	<b>Ken</b>	<b>Bob</b>
<b>Barbour</b>	<b>Barbour</b>	<b>Errair</b>	<b>Flanigan</b>

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