

FRESH TALK

by Dick Baldwin (W NY)

If you missed the rousing time in Reston this summer for any reason, the **FT Tip of The Month** to the Friday morning crowd was of the **best bet** category - check Ms. Karrin Allyson, especially her Concord disc "Ballads, Remembering John Coltrane." Since last August she has another out, "In Blue." This is not a cutie pie talent, but a swinging miss who should be in your collection. (Aside - Ms. Allyson will be at Freshmen hangout, Night Town in Cleveland Hts., OH November 19. Nice going Jim Wadsworth!)

On the male side, don't feel cool until you meet Jamie Davis, on the road last summer with the Count Basie Orchestra. His "It's All About Love" is on Disc Makers label. This gentleman is a combo of the late, great Johnny Hartman, Joe Williams and Bill Eckstine. The backup group he hangs with is not too shabby either. This CD rates with the best vocal work I have come across in years. Actually, son Tom bought the side as a gift from Jamie at intermission at Artpark in Lewiston, NY last June 3, while I was still stuck in my seat marveling at the Basie Band's first half performance. It was a show and a half!

HERE ARE SOME SHORT TAKES WITH FRESHMEN TWISTS -

SOUNDS OF SINATRA (August 25, '02)

*Two-hour Sinatra show by Sid Mark on WLGZ (990AM) Rochester is back on the Baldwin "Must Music List." Excellent production by veteran DJ Mark, a real pro. Check this medley by the Chairman - **It's A Blue World, I'll Remember April, As Time Goes By and I'll See You Again.** Over all these years I've never heard Frank do "Blue World." Have You? Question: During those grand Capitol Years did the paths of The Freshmen and Mr. Sinatra ever cross? On the same stage? The Rochester station promotes itself playing "The Legends." And, they do! Legends 990 Is It! Does it tune in in your area?*

JAZZ TIMES MAGAZINE (Sept. '02)

Letters Section, Nelson E. Harrison, Ph. D. -

"A major fault of today's education industry is that students are not having any fun in school...involvement in the arts enhances and accelerates brain growth...It is time we educators remembered that fun is serious business for children and in music there is no greater fun than jazz."

Sound Advice by Mike Quinn -

"Another difficult test to pass is reproducing a piano, because in a piano, there is no place to hide...if a piano sounds like a piano, you've got a good speaker."

THE FIRST FF KEYBOARD

It's official - the first time a keyboard appeared on a Four Freshmen stage was when Ray Brown joined the group in March, 1973. And, yes "Here's That Rainy Day" was part of the repertoire. Check it in the album Mt. Freshmore w/Bob, Ross & Ken. One other item - no, the Ray Brown we know is not the hornman who played in the Kenton Band. And, it's certain that Ray and Lisa will program a swinging affair for the Florida Conv. Note - on CD Freshmore is matched with Live in Tokyo.

SHORT SHORTS

Jane Withers Errair is still a star!

Bob Flanigan re his Greencastle hoop days says he was "good, but not fast."

Great Special FN Edition for September-October following the Convention.

Should have magnified it at Reston that Freshmen Friend, George Shearing, has been one of the great guys of our time. No, not has been. He still is.

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BARBERSHOPPERS HONOR FLANIGAN FOR HIS CLASS

Mike McCoy (WI)

The September-October issue of The Harmonizer magazine identifies Bob Flanigan as the "classiest new member" of the Barbershop Harmony Society, also known as the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA).

The Harmonizer is the Society's official magazine.

The text accompanying a photo of Bob on stage at the group's international convention saluting the audience (on page 25, for Harmonizer subscribers) notes:

"Bob Flanigan, who sang with the Four Freshmen for over 40 years, grew up singing barbershop and received a Society honorary life membership at the convention (Held the week of July 4, in Portland, Ore.). He joined Acoustix in performing a Freshmen classic for the convention audience."

The choice of Acoustix to join Bob on stage was particularly appropriate as Acoustix is one of the best known barbershop quartets of recent years. It also has a CD out entitled "Jazz, Jazz, Jazz" that features the quartet singing "Day by Day," "Poinciana," "Graduation Day," "It's a Blue World," and "Route 66" in tribute to the Four Freshmen. There's also a message from Bob Flanigan written for the liner notes.

For more on Bob's recognition by SPEBSQSA, see page 18 of the September-October "Fresh News." For more on Acoustix and this album, see page 26 of the same issue.

Long Tall Hero #1: More On Flanigan's Triumph -

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member: Bob Flanigan, who sang with the Four Freshmen for over 40 years, grew up singing barbershop and received a Society honorary life membership at the convention. He joined **Acoustix** in performing a Freshmen classic for the convention audience.



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