

FRESHMEN DELIVER COOL SHOW ON HOT NIGHT

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It was a scorcher of a day on June 21, 2002, as Tom and I found our way to the Veteran's Park Amphitheater in Springfield OH. Equipped with our folding lawn chairs, insect repellent, and the coolest clothing we had brought with us, we settled in to wait for the concert, which was still an hour and a half away. (The chill of that cave in KY would have been most welcome at this point!)

The stage had been set up under some beautiful, very large old trees down in the hollow - actually a lovely setting for an outdoor concert. As the sun was beginning its descent, the Four Freshmen bounded onto the stage and immediately grabbed the attention of the large crowd with "Day In, Day Out." Vince and Bob were both wearing their shades - prepared for the hot Ohio sun. We realized that Bob was sitting down with his drum kit again, which we had not seen in recent performances.

By the time the guys had swung through "Invitation" and "Young and Foolish" with Curtis' fantastic flugelhorn solo, we were both astonished at what a remarkably great and balanced sound system this amphitheater had. Of course, the Freshmen were in top form, which made the whole experience even better! We love the newer materials they have added - "I Fall In Love Too Easily," "Brain," "When Your Lover Has Gone," "Around The World," and the beautiful arrangement of "Indian Summer." I thought I detected a new intro to the old chestnut "There Will Never Be Another You," and the closer for the first half of the show "Walkin' My Baby Back Home" was a big hit with the crowd on hand.

During the second half of the show Bob had fun with his echo down in the "holler." The guys remarked that they had just returned from a trip to New Zealand (hope at least one of them will write something about that expedition for Fresh News). Bob commented that Brian, Curtis and Vince all got sick with respiratory stuff but he did not - he said they must have brought back the germs in their hair! Funny stuff from the stage.

The Freshmen didn't seem to mind the heat, but they had a few bouts with mosquitoes. Curtis was blowing that horn so well, we could even feel a breeze from all those "cool notes" floating down from the stage. The Freshmen delivered the goods once again. We can't wait for the next album they record - it's gonna be super. By the way, we have really been enjoying the latest release - **The FF Live in the New Millennium** - which every Fresh Fan must have. The sound quality is superb. The CD's are the next best thing to a live performance, but the music comes alive when you SEE and hear this group perform. Totally AWESOME.

Did You Get "the Liberty Years CD?" The Liner Notes Are Great!

In the recent CD, *The Best of the Freshmen, the Liberty Years*, the liner notes begin like this:

"Hello! My name is Ross Barbour and I sang third part on these records. The Four Freshmen quartet was my life from Sept. 20, 1948, when we began to Aug. 12, 1977, when I left. We took a lot of pride in what we did, and the current versions of the quartet still does. Yes! The group is still going after 53 years. As members became road-weary, they would replace themselves. Through the years, the group has stayed young and vital.

Why?? Because it is worth doing. A really good vocal group fills a special need. I feel that a song has not really been sung until a good vocal group sings it. We're all fans of the great soloists, but they can only sing you the "face" of a song. The rest is left to the background musicians.

But vocal groups, if they really do the chords right, can sing you the face, the body and the soul of a song. The listener experiences its flirting glances or its warm embraces; after all, the chords a good group sings are really like a song's body language.

There are people who crave this deeper dimension of music. It is like "ear candy" for them. Freshmen fans feel what no other group shows the body and soul of a song like The Four Freshmen do. Enjoy!

We recorded this music in 1968 and 1969. Let me call your mind back to those days. As they say, it was the best of times and the worst of times. The economy was flourishing. Protests were stylish. Pat Paulsen was running for President. Vietnam and Civil Rights were in the headlines. Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King were tragically killed. Russia invaded Czechoslovakia, snuffing out freedom - temporarily. Long hair and tie-dyed clothes were in, and music was going through an era of amplified bass, lots of rhythm and strong brass. You'll hear that influence in some of these good tunes."