

THE FOUR FRESHMEN - TIME STANDS STILL

by Vince Johnson

It's special to be a part of this legacy called the Four Freshmen. What other group can say it has been around for 53 years? 53 years!! It's truly amazing. I can't believe that I've been in this band for 3.5 years. It all goes by like a roller coaster whirlwind! But I don't want to get off the ride! To be able to perform music that I love is truly a gift. I hope that I will remember that gift throughout everything we do and experience.

I suppose it's time to reflect a bit about what has happened in the last 3+ years. I could probably write for days about all the people I have met and all the shows that we have played. Now that would certainly fill up an entire newsletter and then some. So I will just take some moments and try to pinpoint what I've seen and heard and felt.

The Four Freshmen Society is an organization like no other I've ever seen. I've seen some fan clubs but the FFS is so, so much more. Some of my favorite moments are after we perform a show. I like to meet people in the audience, especially members of the society. It seems that almost 99% of each FreshFan or "closet FreshFan" (as I like to think of them) has the same sparkle in their eyes. It's as if I am seeing and speaking with a person who is truly a teenager again. And the energy and vivacity that they have is genuinely that of a younger person. I am totally in awe by this! I really believe that music transcends time. It just amazes me that we are talking about 53 years in time! It is in this respect that I feel we are all a part of something very special and unique.

The Four Freshmen now have an average age of 29. It's as if there is a giant circle and everyone inside (FFS included) is 29 and will never turn 30. I think it's a beautiful thing. At the point when a person lies down to bed at night and looks up at the ceiling about to drift to sleep is a time when we all share the same age. To be excited about tomorrow like it's Christmas. To recall feelings and memories as if they just happened. It brings a chill down my spine and a smile to my face. Is that what this group is all about?? I believe it only touches the surface of what this whole thing is all about!

There have been so many people who have given parts or all of their lives to this music and this organization. It's a bit overwhelming at times to be on the receiving end of all of this love and admiration. So I feel it's appropriate to say thanks as well as I possibly can. I have seen so many people work so hard to make it possible for us to do what we do. It is very motivating! There is nothing quite like playing and singing your best in front of all the people who love and support you. It's as if you are lifted up onto a heavenly cloud and you can do nothing wrong because everything is right. This is how I feel when performing for the FFS, especially at the convention. It truly makes it all worthwhile. I hope that with gratitude I can continue to perform and work at my best level in response to all the love and hard work that I receive. I especially cherish all the new friendships and acquaintances I have made. I thank you all and you all know who you are.

FN July, August, September 2003

Only 108 days left until this year's convention. I think it promises to be the best ever! To be a part of the current FF group is definitely magic. There are moments on stage when I can't believe how good it sounds and feels. I absolutely love to listen and take it all in. I feel this current group has a special chemistry. Each member brings in his own unique personality and then the magic occurs when all four personalities blend together in harmony musically and spiritually. I hope that you will enjoy our group as much as I do. I would like to thank Ray and Lisa in advance for all of their hard work on the convention.

To be a part of the Four Freshmen is an honor to me. The infection of the music is a part of me and I hope to keep it alive forever. Thanks to all for allowing my dreams to come true.

LONG LIVE FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY EUROPE/GREAT BRITAIN

by Vince Johnson

It was especially cool to tour throughout the Netherlands recently. Would you believe we had FFS members from England, Denmark, Norway, France, Germany and Holland? (Did I forget anywhere?) A special thank you to Palle Christensen for networking with everyone and for treating me like royalty. Thanks to all who came out to eat, drink and enjoy the shows.

We played 3 concerts, all in the Netherlands. The first, Laren, close to Amsterdam, was a live radio show. The big band knocked the roof off of the place. These guys were so cool and they were totally swingin' - a very, very energetic performance all around. Next we played a small jazz club in Eindhoven. These folks cannot get enough music and jazz. They loved us! We also played a concert at a very "fancy" hotel the next day closer to Germany, hosted by a true gentleman (and FreshFan). Would you believe that this hotel had rooms with heated bathroom floors? I'm not making it up. I looked under the sink and there was actually a control so you could make it just as warm as you liked it! Vinnie loved it!

Oops! * ! ^ % Dagnabit - I Goofed!

by C. H. T.

Please be advised that the telephone number for the **ENCORE JAZZ CRUISE** (from Port Canaveral FL - November 1-8) we listed in the "Freshmen itinerary" on the 3rd page of our "Fresh News Special Edition" you received in early June was incorrect.

If by chance you called that number to make a reservation for the cruise, the Four Freshmen Society special favors (including T-shirts and society shindigs) being provided by Jeri Ann won't automatically include your cruisers. Jeri Ann won't even know you are on board.

So, please call her @ 1-800-355-4135 as reported on page 13 of both of the last two regular editions of FN (Jan.-June 2003). This will not jeopardize any cruise registration you made....but it will help Jeri Ann to get the special favors prepared and arranged to include you too!