

GRAND TIME AT NIGHT TOWN

Cleveland Heights, Ohio June 24, 2002

by Dick Baldwin (WNY)

There is no lip synching where we come from - Freshmen Country!

Take the Night Town jazz club outside Cleveland where Jim Wadsworth and Brendan Ring book only the top entertainers in the country. Remember, Downbeat Magazine lists Night Town in its 100 Best Jazz Clubs. And for good reason. The Ciraolos, Traffords and Baldwins handled 42 tunes with ease during two shows at 7 and 9 on June 24. The setup, as mentioned previously, is close quarters and the production makes for wonderful entertainment of that legend sound. The food was also top shelf.

How many Fresh Fans can hold forth on the sidewalk in front of a venue and talk Ferreira philosophy? It happens.

"Moonlight In Vermont, Meaning Of the Blues, Nancy With the Laughing Face, Fools Rush In, Polka Dots, Laura and Angel Eyes," for instance, weren't there, but everything else was, including the new "Around the World." And, when the Latin kick kicks in on any Freshmen tune, it casts spells. Have you been there?

Night Town does it again. We're proud to have been there.

SHORT TAKES:

+Newest New Guy - Did you know that Curtis Calderon is one of the top orange (shaker instrument) players in the business? He's also not a bad shortstop when maestro Ferreira flings the fruit ball over Brian and Vince stage left to the Texan.

+The Administration - FFS Prexy Tom Purvis and FN Editor Trafford passed among the audience with good words about the FF and the Society. Nice job per usual.

+At The Annenberg - The new *Live In The New Millennium* CD (Pat Boone's Gold Label) was on sale at the breaks and was hot - good sale.

+One More Time - Craig Fontana, Bill's boy (9) outside of Pittsburgh, did "Day-By-Day" with the Freshmen. The youngster can sing and sounded comfortable with the group's classic. The crowd went bonkers!

+Encores - In each instance the shows were capped by a cappella things, first show "Our Hearts Are Full Of Spring" and second show "Chasing Rainbows." Is this standard, now?

+Jack Is Back - Jack Chivatero, long-time FF follower in Ohio and man with many numbers, who helped us in earlier times, appeared ready to take the stage and sing a few, musical not financial tunes.

+Indian Summer - Heard this tune at Night Town. It's from an album (5-5-58): LP FF In Person, and the Freshmen lineup was

Flanigan, Don Barbour, Ross Barbour and Ken Albers. (Bobby Militello, alto & flute, with the Dave Brubeck Quartet, likes this one and wants the FF back at his club, the Tralf, downtown Buffalo.)

+Check It! - Ticket prices are up (average \$51) and attendance is down for the numerous pop tours. If the younger music interest is departing the shout & pout scene, why not invite them to come our way?

+The Cap - The Freshmen can certainly sing, play 15 instruments, tell stories, project humor, BUT, can they dance?

