

Freshmen, Kenton band 'cool'

By GASPAR COSTANTINI

While Michigan sweltered, Friday beat the record heat, it was considerably cooler in Newaygo Brook—thanks to the jazz of the Four Freshmen and the Stan Kenton Orchestra.

Bob Flannigan, Ray Brown, Ross Barbour and Ken Albers showed why the Four Freshmen have endured for more than 30 years.

Their longevity is due in part to their distinctive vocal style and a musical versatility shown by the instruments that each is able to play adequately.

They entertained and charmed the audience with their light-hearted humor, directing healthy barbs at

each other and incorporating them into a patter that frequently would lead into a musical introduction.

BUT ASIDE from all the comedy, the Four Freshmen give the audience what they came to hear—four voices creating a wider sound than four people can create by singing in unison. Each voice is distinct, yet blended to create a jazzy feel.

Of course, they accomplished this best with their nostalgic renditions of "Route 66," "It Could Happen to You," "I'm a Little Shy," "I'm a Little Shy" and "There Will Never Be Another You."

These tunes were pleasantly mixed with several contemporary pieces: Neil Sedaka's "Laughter in the Rain," an up-tempo version of Charlie

and, who up to two years ago was the lead on the saxophone soloist, shows his abilities as the tenor sax soloist. Craig Jenkins, like many of the other band members, is a young, young. But he plays his flute horn with the maturity authority of a veteran.

Throughout such pieces as "Love For Sale" and "Malgøyum," the audience was treated to the expertise of Ramon Lopez, whose performance on the conga drums set a Latin tempo to keep things cooking.

The Kenton band also has a shade for the sensitive with delicate arrangements like Stevie Sondheim's "Send in the Clowns" and Bill Holman's "Yesterdays." Such tunes reflect the nuances and shadings of the sensitive players as well as the variety of tempos—a tribute to the skillfulness of the Kenton style and manner.

Bob Flannigan of the Four Freshmen was the highlight by joining the band for a lively version of "A-Train." To complete the package, the musicians were introduced individually by Sherer while they played their theme song, "Artistry in Rhythm."

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