

## Thanks to the Four Freshmen

Jim Bell (MI)

While attending the University of Michigan in 1954 I started seeing The Four Freshmen at the Crest Lounge in Detroit, MI. I lost track of their career in the 80's. In 1999 I saw them perform at the Elkhart, IN Jazz Festival. I immediately joined The Four Freshmen Society and have been attending the yearly conventions since Bowling Green (2001) where the famous "cave" concert was performed.

When in Grand Rapids, MI, for the 2004 convention and before the festivities began I decided to visit a friend, the Superintendent of Schools at Kelloggsville Public Schools. He wasn't in the office on that July day, but his assistant, Candy McKnight, was. There was chemistry between the two of us right off the bat. She wasn't familiar with The Four Freshmen so I asked her to boot up their website on the computer. I decided to go for it and invited her to attend the Friday night concert with me. She agreed and our romance began. Candy has always liked live music and she fell in love with The Freshmen's jazz harmony, beautiful lyrics, and the outstanding talent of the group.

Our long distance relationship began to flourish. We couldn't wait for the weekends. I lived in Michigan City, IN, and Candy lived in Grand Rapids, MI - two hours apart. Saying goodbye on Sunday nights was becoming harder and harder.

We traveled to Europe to experience Amsterdam at the 2005 International Convention. We visited France and Italy before joining friends at the convention. The convention team did a fantastic job, and hearing the group perform at the world renowned "Concertgebouw" was a thrill.

The Four Freshmen are the primary reason we attend the conventions, but over the years we have met some wonderful friends. We might see them only once or twice a year but we are in touch often by email and telephone informing each other of the latest Freshmen concert we attended and how it went.

The next time we got together was for the 2005 Jazz Cruise to Mexico featuring The Four Freshmen and alumni of the Stan Kenton Orchestra. The day we were in port in Mazatlan we got engaged at the "Continuity of Life" monument. The sculpture is meant to represent life's continuity in harmony with nature. The man is pointing to an infinite horizon offering the future to the woman, a future where they will search for happiness together and protect living things. Lots of champagne toasts, congratulations, and best wishes were celebrated at dinner that night.

The week following the Pittsburgh convention we were married in a small ceremony on the beach of Lake Michigan in Michigan City, IN. Afterward we celebrated our nuptials with family and friends. It was a perfect day. Local vocalist Bunny Fisher & Jazz Trio offered us a grand performance. We want to thank The Four Freshmen for their part in our romance. The two of us will have fun "keeping the music playing" in the days and years to come. We look forward to seeing everyone again in the "City of Roses" Portland, Oregon, at the 2007 convention.

FN January, February, March 2007

## Four Freshmen Evening in Beaver Falls, PA

Ray Gurley (PA)

On Tuesday evening, October 10, 2006, the Beaver Valley Community Concert Association kicked off its new season with the absolute best talent available anywhere in this whole wide world - Brian, Curtis, Vince and Bob. The Beaver Falls Middle School Auditorium was sold out to the tune of more than 1400 extremely well-pleased patrons, who got to enjoy something new in a great Four Freshmen concert. On several occasions Curtis used a mute, which intensified the warm, melting personal sounds of many Freshmen favorites.

It was very gratifying to watch eager buyers line up to snap up *In Session*, *Live In Holland*, the new *Live From Las Vegas* DVD, et cetera, both at intermission as well as after the concert when all four Four Freshmen made themselves accessible for signing and chatting. Each one of them overflows with charm and charisma. Love them, love their music, Love their music, love them.

Wonder if there is any way to get audiences to hold their applause on "It's A Blue World" until after the Eb major seventh chord on the first occurrence of the words "blue" and "world." Applause always starts about the end of the word "it's" and continues for the rest of the first line. This drowns out what for any discerning ear is the only real auditory definition of the color blue. It certainly is better than a dictionary definition of the concept of blue. Even someone blind from birth feels he knows what "blue" is after hearing the Four Freshmen sing that first major seventh chord. It may actually be the best representation of "blue" for sighted persons as well.



Bill Truitt, Chick Trafford, Energizer Bunny  
Sue & Cathy Trafford