

Fresh News

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About the introduction of the keyboard into the Freshmen Ask Ray Brown

I met the guys, Ross, Bob, Ken, and Bill, in Florida in 1972. They were booked in for three nights and I led the house band.....bass, piano, drums, and guitar.

While talking with Ross at the gig, I mentioned that I had been a Freshmen fan since I was about 12 years old and my dream was to sing those kinds of arrangements.

I wrote all the vocal arrangements for my group, but rarely did I come even remotely close to the quality of the likes of Ken Albers, Dick Reynolds, and Pete Rugulo.

Anyhow, I told Ross that if Bill ever wanted to get off the road, consider me and a keyboard. Ross said that the idea was not that far fetched because the guitar needed to be retuned two or three times during each show, and the guys had talked about how to deal with that problem.

About nine months later I got a phone call from Ross, asking if I wanted to take Bill's place. Bill wanted to go home and take care of Sue who, even then, was in failing health.

I said "How much do I have to pay you?" Anyhow, Ken started sending me arrangements to learn and a couple of months later I visited the guys on the road (I believe in Ohio) and we tried a couple of songs to see if the piano suited them. It did.

Bill wished me well and started making plans to leave the group. The end of the year 1972 was the target date.

I invested in a Farfista keyboard, which was state of the art at that time. In January of 1973 I was in place in LA and we spent two weeks in heavy rehearsal, then hit the road. The first gig was in Titusville, PA. I guess they figured that if I didn't work out, at least not that many people would know about it.

It seemed to work out ok and I spent the happiest four plus years of my musical life traveling the world and singing those wonderful chords.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it!



Brian Eichenberger
Lead Voice



Curtis Calderon
2nd Voice



Vince Johnson
Baritone Voice



Bob Ferreira
Bass Voice