

# We love the Conventions!

John and Willie Canham, FFS Ontario, Canada

My wife and I attended our first Convention in Indianapolis in 2008 and we have not missed one since then. I was encouraged to go to Indianapolis by a friend in Toronto, Canada. That friend is Rod West, a superb trumpet player, and I am truly indebted to him for recommending that I attend one of the conventions.

Besides the wonderful performances of the Four Freshmen, whether it be with a Big Band or self-contained, we have never been disappointed. We tell all our friends that seeing the Four Freshmen perform is 10 times better than just hearing them perform.

A huge plus has been the new friendships that we have made by attending these conventions. The comradery and hospitality that we have enjoyed with our new international and American friends is truly amazing. I hope that these friendships, based on our shared love of the music, will endure over time and that we will continue to enjoy together that special Four Freshmen sound for many years.

We are extremely grateful to all the dedicated people who have volunteered their time and energy to host the Convention in their city. It is a huge responsibility and every year it is all made to look so easy.

The enjoyment of the Four Freshmen music transcends all political and other differences that we may have. We come for the music and, with increasing importance, the friendships that we are continually renewing with every convention. See you in San Antonio.

**Long live the Four Freshmen sound!**

*As Editor I am not responsible for the accuracy of an article. However I do have to correct an article in the last "FreshNews" People were put in the wrong family. This is the correction: "Nancy Lewis is Sue Barbour's Niece and Marty Bentley is Ray Brown's Sister."*

Barbara Meyers, Editor

# A Great Sunday Afternoon With The Four Freshmen

Barbara Meyers, FFS Ohio

I would spend every Sunday afternoon like this if I could. We drove three hours there and three hours back, and I might add going home was in heavy rain all the way. Would I do this again? Yes!

The Guys performed with the Middletown Symphony Orchestra. What a great orchestra. You usually don't see orchestra's this great in small towns.



Their director I am sure has a lot to do with it. His name is Carmen DeLeone. The overture was *Artistry in Rhythm*, which pleased all of us Freshmen Fans. He explained why he started with this connecting the dots between the Four Freshmen and Stan Kenton. The conductor even had the pleasure of meeting Stan Kenton and talking to him on several occasions.

Brian, Bob, Curtis and Stein were in top form. They performed some songs self-contained. However, most of them with the orchestra while blending in their instruments as well.

They performed a lot of the old standbys. One surprise was Brian singing, *If I only had a Brain* with the orchestra.

And if this wasn't enough, Curtis introduced Lauren Lewis, the great-niece of Ross and Sue. He asked if she would like to say something she shook her head no. Then he said sitting next to her is her boyfriend, Ben. He asked Ben if he would like to say something. Ben said yes and pulled Lauren up front, got down on one knee and proposed. Of course he got a YES. Now how many times does this happen at a Four Freshmen concert?



Afterwards, in the lobby they had a reception with lots of good food and beverages for anyone who wanted to stay and schmooz with the Guys. The conductor even came out and enjoyed the fun. They all loved the Four Freshmen so much that we sold lots of CD's and had many people interested in the Society. I hope that pays off. Sarah Lou and Neil Lantz along with Mel and I sold CD's. We were very busy!

I would like to say thanks to all the people of the Dave Finkelman Auditorium, the sponsors and the orchestra for such a wonderful Sunday afternoon.