

# PERFECT HARMONY:

## Music career took vocalist around the world

By Brenda M. Klinger, Special to the Pahrump Valley Times

There is always perfect harmony in the home of Autie Goodman, retired and living in Pahrump with his wife and son.

Goodman was a musician and vocalist with The Four Freshmen, the original group dating back to 1948 and known for performing jazz, and classic pop in the style of a barbershop quartet.

Goodman's son, known in the music industry as Terry Nails, moved from Florida to live with his parents, bringing together two talented musicians from different musical eras under the same roof.

Goodman used to live in Las Vegas for almost 40 years before coming to Pahrump in 1999 after he retired from The Four Freshmen.

"We love it out here, it's so quiet and nice," Goodman said.

Born and raised in Burns, Oregon, Goodman was about 12 years old when he heard world-renowned Artie Shaw play the clarinet. He told his dad that's what he wanted to do.

He got his first clarinet in the mail, took some lessons and his interest in music just continued from there.

Goodman started playing a tenor sax in his teens so he could join a group in Burns.

Another one of his idols and friends was the late Buddy DeFranco, Goodman calling him the "greatest jazz clarinet player that ever lived."

He moved to Portland, Oregon after serving time in the military, got married and lived in Phoenix for a short time before relocating to Las Vegas where his professional musical career took off.

"Music's the only thing I've ever done good," Goodman said.

His son, Terry Nails, with a background as a rock musician has performed and recorded music with a sound far different from The Four Freshmen.

"He's a good guy, he's done a lot of stuff too, different than what we did, but he still has the talent that he got from his mother and I," Goodman said.

Goodman said that his son has a lot of jazz in him and is a good bass player.

In the 1960's, Goodman was with a group called The Modernaires and later joined a band working at the former Hacienda Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas before being invited by Bob Flanigan, the



Autie Goodman, who spent 15 years with The Four Freshmen, points out some photos and memorabilia from his career hanging in his home music room.



Soloist/jazz musician Autie Goodman of The Four Freshmen along with son, Terry Nails, who is an accomplished bass guitar player from the rock era, are living together in harmony in Pahrump.

last original member of The Four Freshman, to join their group in 1977. Goodman performed with them for fifteen years.

After moving to Pahrump, Goodman entertained for about three years at the now closed Tommasino's restaurant with owner/musician Tom Saitta and well-known Vegas pianist Tommy Deering.

"Tommy Deering told me one thing," Goodman said. "You didn't become a musician, you were born a musician'."

Goodman, a multi-talented musician, sang solos, played the drums and the saxophone while with The Four Freshmen. The other group members also sang and played instruments including keyboard, trombone, bass and guitar.

"We were very busy, I'll tell you, we were self-contained," said Goodman, as he pointed to a photo of the group playing at the Dunes in Vegas. "If we went somewhere and they didn't have a band, we didn't care, we just set up, did our own thing anyway."

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