

# Fresh News

Volume 34, No.1

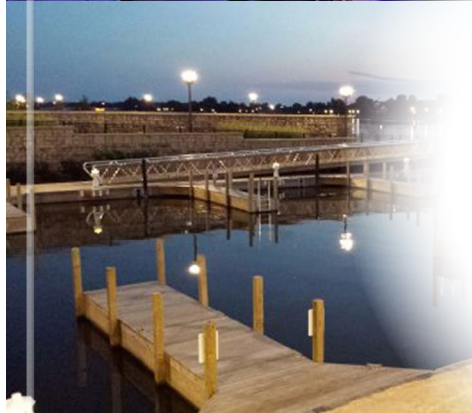
JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2020



## 2020 Four Freshmen Society Convention



## BAY CITY, MI





Our  
President,  
**Neil  
Lantz**



## ***Happy Musical New Year!***

During the recent holiday season, I took time to re-read several editions of an early Four Freshmen newsletter, captioned in the name of their fan club at the time, *The Fifth Freshman*. I noted an interesting article by Ross Barbour in 1964 in which he described the development of the group's instrumental approach to complement its great vocal harmonization. That significant evolution in the Freshmen style is also explained in his excellent book, *Now You know the Story of the Four Freshmen* (beautiful coffee table copies of which are available in the Music Mart).

The Freshmen blending of vocal and instrumental techniques began shortly after their first professional gig in September, 1948. Describing the origin of the blend, Ross wrote in the 1984 *Fifth Freshmen*, "September 20, 1948, we opened at the 113 Club in Fort Wayne, Indiana ... our first professional job. The first week we would play a song, and then we'd sing a song. Our booking agent heard us there and urged us to play while we sang. "If you can do that," he said, "I'll have you working some of the best night clubs in the middle west." That was the goal he set for us... as we rehearsed. It's strange about "goals"...before you reach one, you find you're reaching for a higher one."

The Freshmen followed the advice of their agent, Dick Sheldon. And so it's gone for the past seven decades as we in the FFS and thousands of other fans across the country and around the world have enjoyed and appreciated the wonderful vocal/instrumental blending of our favorite group.

Your continuing interest and support of the guys and the Society is greatly appreciated. I wish you all a very Happy and Musical year ahead.

## **Thoughts from the Editor**

I hope you like Donna's new on-going article "Where Are They Now." I am looking forward to following all of the articles. Also in this edition, we are starting a three-part article by Mark Schlichting. It appears to be a very informative and fun read.

I would like to take this time to wish you all a very prosperous and happy 2020. Another *Fresh* decade to look forward to. In my teen and early twenties (in the 50s) I never thought much about longevity. But I never thought I would see 2000 roll around - much less 2020. Here we all are, in this new decade and still young enough to enjoy The Four Freshmen and The Four Freshmen Society.

Let's make this 2020 Convention one of the best for renewing long time friendships and making new ones. I am looking forward to seeing all of you.

Barb Meyers  
Editor.



# Take a Break and Relax at

# BAY CITY

Have you ever visited a new place and felt ‘wow’ about it? For many visitors, it happens at Bay City.

Bay City may not be as popular as other cities in the United States, but don’t let that fool you. Bay City is a smaller but beautiful upcoming tourist destination that is worth a visit. You will be surprised by some of the unique things to do and places you can explore while at the Convention.

Many folks that have spent a few hours, or a few days, of a side trip here while traveling to Ann Arbor, Detroit, or Mackinac Island have wished to revisit someday, to take a break and relax at Bay City.

Bay City is one of the tri-cities that make up the Mid-Michigan region, along with Saginaw and Midland. Saginaw was known as an automotive town, and hosts two of the world’s largest foundries which provided raw materials for a number of war efforts. Midland is home to Dow Chemical. Bay City, which sits at the mouth of the Saginaw River, was at the heart of Michigan’s lumber industry. Lumber baron homes still line blocks of Center Avenue.

If you are not sure if Bay City should be included in your Convention plans, you will be pleasantly surprised when you do so. As is not often the case in other convention cities, everything in Bay City is laid back, casually paced and centrally located.

Within a few blocks of the Doubletree hotel are specialty shops, pubs, restaurants and one of Michigan’s largest antique malls. Across the street from the hotel is the Delta College planetarium which offers seasonal programs each Saturday. A leisurely stroll awaits along the Riverwalk which lines both banks of the Saginaw river that divides the city, or make the 25 minute drive to Midland to take in the beauty of the Dow Gardens. Be sure to include in you visit one of our two tours.

***Most importantly, the Freshmen will be here. Make plans to join them.***

## Tour # 1

We will embark by bus at 8:30 am for a short drive to the village of Frankenmuth. Frankenmuth is proud to be one of Michigan’s premiere vacation destinations, second only to Mackinac Island. Known as “Michigan’s Little Bavaria,” Frankenmuth has a proud German heritage that lives on with places like the Bavarian Inn, Zehnder’s, Frankenmuth Oktoberfest, and more. As a Pure Michigan partner, Frankenmuth shares its story, its tradition, its passion, and friendly ways with a myriad of visitors every year.

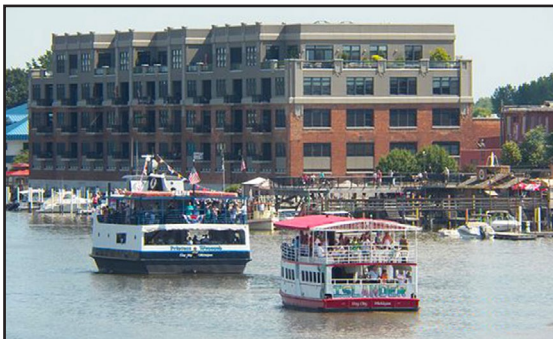
After a short tour of the village, the buses will continue to Bronner’s the world’s largest CHRISTmas store. Bronner’s features over 50,000 trims and gifts for all seasons, reasons, and budgets. There is also Bronner’s Hummel collection of over 1000 figurines, one of most every subject produced for purchase under Goebel and Bronner’s collection of Precious Moments. A total of 570 Nativities from 65 nations are part of Bronner’s collection on display in the program center. More than 300 decorated trees are displayed in Bronner’s salesroom. Over two million guests visit annually from throughout the world.

There are many reasons Frankenmuth is known as “Michigan’s Little Bavaria” and German food is just one of them. From Bronner’s we will sample some of that as we visit the Bavarian Inn for lunch. There’s something special about coming to the Bavarian Inn Restaurant to enjoy a home-cooked meal. Since 1888, more than 20 million guests have returned to feast on their world-famous “all-you-can-eat” family-style dinners

After lunch there will be time to visit the shops near the Bavarian Inn, take a carriage ride through the village, or sample some famous Mackinac Island fudge, made as you watch, before boarding the buses for a return to the hotel. Cost \$52

## Tour # 2

We will embark by trolley to drive by some of Bay City’s finest example of Victorian and lumber baron homes, on the roundabout way to “City Market”. While there you will have the opportunity to watch the making of Michigan’s famous Mackinac Island fudge, before partaking of a tasting of Michigan wines. Each guest will be provided with “market dollars” which can be used at any of the over 15 specialty shops, or 5 restaurants. The market is within walking distance of the Doubletree for those who wish to stroll back, or shuttles will be available for a return to the hotel. Cost \$40





## WHERE DO MY MEMBERSHIP DUES GO?

Annual membership dues are required for membership in the Four Freshmen Society (FFS). Here's how your dues are used:

- Not for labor :) The FFS is all volunteers. No one is paid to do Society work; there's no paid staff.
- *Fresh News* Newsletter is published quarterly and is full of information and member stories to help members learn about the upcoming convention, Four Freshmen gigs, latest CD releases, to gain access to the Merchandise Mart, and so much more.
- We honor 10- and 20-year contiguous memberships by special lapel pin.
- A mailing list is maintained for the newsletter and other mailings to FFS members. All mailing expenses are paid by the FFS.
- As an FFS member, you gain access to the annual FFS convention, organized and put on by a committee of volunteers. The annual meeting offers a bonding — the Four Freshmen — and fans from all over the world!
- The FFS often purchases items for the Freshmen -- clothing and sometimes instruments and cases, replacements for damaged items, publicity photographs and posters.
- The FFS pays travel/housing expenses to the annual FFS Convention for the Four Freshmen.
- Four Freshmen recordings on CDs are usually produced by the FFS.
- Transition expenses for bringing new Freshmen into the group are paid by the FFS.

Your annual dues of \$25 (or \$20/year when renewing for multiple years at once) stretch far beyond what's listed above in benefits and expenses. As a FFS member, you are part of the greatest fan club in the world for a group of hard working, skilled and talented young men who, after 70 years, continue to perform one of the greatest historical legacies in American music!

You can renew your membership at any time by going to **[dues.fourfreshmensociety.com](http://dues.fourfreshmensociety.com)**; please do!

# 2020 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

## Thursday 9/24

8:00am – 6:00pm	.....	Registration	.....	Grand Foyer
9:00am – 4:00pm	.....	113 Club	.....	Wheeler
10:00am – 2:00pm	...	FF Music Foundation	.....	Salon A
2:30pm – 4:00pm	.....	Wannabes	.....	Davidson
3:00pm – 5:00pm	.....	FF Society Board	.....	Salon B
7:00pm – 11:00pm	...	Cash Bar	.....	Grand Ballroom
7:00pm – 11:00pm	...	Jam Session	.....	Grand Ballroom

## Friday 9/25

8:00am – 6:00pm	.....	Registration	.....	Grand Foyer
8:30am – 2:00pm	.....	Tour #1 (Frankenmuth)	.....	Grand Foyer
9:00am – 2:00pm	.....	Tour #2 (Architectural)	.....	Grand Foyer
9:00am – 4:00pm	.....	113 Club	.....	Wheeler
2:30pm – 4:00pm	.....	Wannabes	.....	Davidson
5:30pm – 6:30pm	.....	Meet and Greet	.....	Grand Foyer
5:30pm – 11:00pm	...	Cash Bar	.....	Grand Ballroom
6:30pm – 11:00pm	...	Dinner and Concert	.....	Grand Ballroom

## Saturday 9/26

9:00am – 4:00pm	.....	113 Club	.....	Wheeler
9:00am – 10:00am	....	State Representatives	.....	Davidson
10:00am – 11:00am	..	General Meeting	.....	Davidson
1:00pm – 2:30pm	.....	FF Memories	.....	Davidson
2:30pm – 4:00pm	.....	Wannabes	.....	Davidson
2:30pm – 4:00pm	.....	Convention Co-ordination	..	Boardroom
5:30pm – 6:30pm	.....	Meet and Greet	.....	Grand Foyer
5:30pm – 11:00pm	...	Cash Bar	.....	Grand Ballroom
6:30pm – 11:00pm	...	Dinner and Concert	.....	Grand Ballroom
11:00pm – ???	.....	Afterglow	.....	Grand Foyer

## 2020 FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY CONVENTION

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

(This information gives further details regarding the Registration Form)

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION:** Registration begins February 1, 2020. You may register online at **FFS2020.com** or register by mail and pay by check or credit card using the registration form provided. Please provide all requested information including preferred first **and** last names (for name badges).

**TABLE ASSIGNMENTS:** Please provide all names of others you want seated at your table. Encourage your preferred tablemates to mail or create online their registrations early. **Seating will be arranged by postmark date or online registration date of the last member in your party. MULTIPLE REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED ON THE SAME DATE WILL BE SELECTED BY A LOTTERY.**

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** We recommend you make your hotel reservations early (even before February). Rooms at the DoubleTree by Hilton will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Rates for the convention are guaranteed at \$129 plus tax per night for Riverfront view or \$119 plus tax for city view. Please specify two queen beds or a king bed. These rates will be available also for three days before and three days after the convention dates of September 24-26, 2020.

**TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM:** Call DoubleTree reservations at 989-891-6000. Be sure to mention the Four Freshmen Society Group rate.

**COMMEMORATIVE SHIRTS:** The shirts are light blue collared golf style in Ladies' and Men's sizes with our 2020 convention logo embroidered on the upper left chest. They are made by Port Authority. Please order shirts with your registration as shirts will be NOT available for purchase at the convention.

**JAM SESSION (MEMBERS' TALENT NIGHT):** A great evening of jazz. A talented local jazz group will anchor the evening's festivities as past and current Freshmen and convention attendees perform. Please indicate your song, key, and instrument on the registration form so that the group will be prepared to accompany your song.

#### **TOURS:**

Friday, September 25 **Tour #1** (\$52/person) embarks from the hotel at 8:30 AM by bus for the Village of Frankenmuth including Bronner's Christmas store with lunch at the Bavarian Inn. Will return around 2:00pm.

Friday, September 25 **Tour #2** (\$40/person) embarks from the hotel at 9:00 AM by trolley(s) for an architectural tour of the City's Victorian and lumber baron's homes ending at City Market. The market is within walking distance of the hotel, or shuttles will be available. Will return around 2:00pm.

**MENU VARIATIONS:** Please specify whether you require vegetarian for other specifics for lunch or evening meals. Select either Great Lakes whitefish or chicken for Friday evening dinner.

**REGISTRATION FEES:** Early registration, prior to July 1, is encouraged and must be accompanied by payment. Every effort will be made to accommodate late registrations, but priority dinner seating cannot be guaranteed.

**PAYMENT SUMMARY:** Please complete all information on the Registration Form and forward your payments. You may pay by check or credit card. Only **MEMBERS** of the Four Freshmen Society may attend this convention. Non-members will be able to join the FFS for \$15 (single or couple – please indicate). Feel free to duplicate the registration form for your non-member friends who may be interested in attending the convention.

**TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL:** There is a free shuttle to and from the MBS International Airport. Rental cars and taxi service are also available at the airport.

**HOTEL PARKING:** Parking at the hotel is complimentary.

2020 FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY CONVENTION  
Bay City, MI September 24 – 26, 2020

Mail form to: FFS  
6900 Hunters Knl  
Atlanta, GA 30328-1763  
QUESTIONS? 717-377-6012

PLEASE PRINT

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
(First Name) (Last Name) (First name) (Last Name)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

COMMEMORATIVE SHIRT: \$32 EACH (shirts will not be available for purchase at the convention).  
Enter NUMBER of shirts wanted by size and gender

MEN (\_\_\_\_small) (\_\_\_\_med) (\_\_\_\_large) (\_\_\_\_XL) (\_\_\_\_XXL) \_\_\_\_XXXL)

WOMEN (\_\_\_\_small) (\_\_\_\_med) (\_\_\_\_large) (\_\_\_\_XL) (\_\_\_\_XXL)

MENU SELECTIONS: Do you need vegetarian or otherwise special meals? How Many? Friday\_\_\_\_Saturday \_\_\_\_  
Friday menu selection (enter count for your form): Whitefish\_\_\_\_Chicken\_\_\_\_

HOTEL INFORMATION: Have you made your DoubleTree hotel reservation? Yes\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_

DoubleTree Hotel, Bay City, MI 989-891-6000

Rates are \$129/night and \$119/night depending on view including breakfast.

Rates apply three days before and/or three days after convention date (if rooms are available).

Complimentary Parking

(See Registration Information in FreshNews or the [ffs2020.com](http://ffs2020.com) website for hotel reservation procedure)

REGISTRATION FEE: POSTMARKED (or online) FEBRUARY 1 to JULY 1 2020 - \$195 per person  
POSTMARKED (or online) after JULY 1 2020 - \$215 per person

Cancellations — Cancellations with full refund before July 1, 2020. Cancellations from July 1 to August 1 will incur a \$50 processing fee. NO REFUNDS AFTER AUGUST 1, 2020

TABLE SEATING: Tables of eight. List names of those you want at your table SEATING IS ARRANGED BY REGISTRATION POSTMARK or ONLINE DATE OF LAST MEMBER IN YOUR PARTY. MULTIPLE REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED ON THE SAME DATE WILL BE SELECTED BY LOTTERY.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_

TOURS: Tours will be on Friday September 25th

Tour #1 Frankenmuth Village \$52 \_\_\_\_ (limited, reserve early)

Tour #2 City Market \$40 \_\_\_\_ (limited, reserve early)

JAM SESSION: Plan to perform at the Thursday night Musical Jam Session \_\_\_\_\_ Yes\_\_\_\_No

Since this will be a Musical Jam Session and time is limited, we will need your song, key and instrument by July 1, 2020 so we can be ready for you.

PAYMENT SUMMARY

REGISTRATION: \$195 (or \$215 after July 1, 2020) \_\_\_\_\_ people @ \_\_\_\_\_ each = \_\_\_\_\_

Add \$6/person if paying by credit card \_\_\_\_\_ people @ \$6 each = \_\_\_\_\_

COMMEMORATIVE SHIRTS: Men's \_\_\_\_ women's \_\_\_\_ @ \$32 each = \_\_\_\_\_

TOURS: Tour #1 Frankenmuth Village \_\_\_\_ @ \$52 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Tour #2 City Market \_\_\_\_ @ \$40 each = \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBERS ONLY: Four Freshmen Society Membership Fee: \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

(\$15 fee applies to couple or single) Check one: Couple \_\_Single \_\_

Name if different from above. TOTAL = \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by check, please make payable to **FFS** Check No: \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by credit card, please fill out the rest of the form:

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ / Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder's complete address including zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Beginning February 1, 2020 you may register online at: [FFS2020.com](http://FFS2020.com)



## Corporate Board of Directors

Gil Peterson, Chairman 541-672-0937  
Neil Lantz, President 317-849-7443  
John Emerson, Treasurer 843-271-6001  
Donna Gallaway, Secretary 419-943-2756  
David W. Bentley 203-972-1916  
Maurice Byrne 975-565-1530  
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David Mehl 502-243-3030  
Barb Meyers 419-309-7855  
Jack Morrison 616-949-6339  
George Nosky 734-397-7096  
Christian Rank 734-728-1673  
Hank Roysden 937-426-3466

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Yasushi Ichiura 011 81 33 467 7573  
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Tom Purvis 419-873-7041

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## Contributors

Robert Anderson, Simpsonville, SC

John Beck, Kennett Square, PA  
Marylynn Ray, Randolph, NY

## New Members

Sandy Atchinson, Roseburg, OR  
Rebecca Balkon, Byron Center, MI  
Eleanor Forsythe, Winona, MS  
Hawley & Verna Gary, New Iberia, LA  
Mike & Kris Georgia, Harrison, MI  
Chris & Brenda Johansen, Roseburg, OR

Alan & Donnamarie Anne Lapczynski, Pinckney, MI  
Robert Nance, Fort Wayne, IN  
Bob & Melanie Ness, Naperville, IL  
John & Carol Rominger, El Macero, CA  
Ron & Shelly Singer, Beverly Hills, CA  
Bill & Patty Woods, Roseburg, OR  
Tony Zarkades, Salem, MA

*Fresh News* is published quarterly © 2020, all rights reserved, celebrating THE FOUR FRESHMEN, the best vocal/instrumental quartet in the world. Publication does not imply approval of FFS corporate directors or trustees. Each author is responsible for his/her article.

Deadlines for consideration of articles:

1. Jan/Feb/March - Dec 01
2. Apr/May/June - March 15
3. July/Aug/Sept - June 15
4. Oct/Nov/Dec - Sept 15

Submit manuscripts to the Editor:

Barb Meyers, [bam241136@gmail.com](mailto:bam241136@gmail.com), Cell 419-309-7855



# The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Item	Cost	QTY	Total
5 Trombones/5 Trumpets	\$15.00		
50 Years Fresh	\$15.00		
Capitol Collector Series	\$15.00		
Culmination - Greg Stegeman (*)	\$15.00		
Faux Freshmen - Scratchin' the Surface	\$10.00		
Faux Freshmen - Seasons of the Heart	\$10.00		
Faux Freshmen - Unsung	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen (Jazz Factory)	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen and Friends	\$15.00		
Freshmas	\$15.00		
Freshmen Year/Voices in Latin	\$15.00		
Golden Anniversary	\$15.00		
Graduation Day	\$15.00		
In Session	\$15.00		
Ken Albers Arrangements	\$28.00		
Live at Butler	\$15.00		
Live at Clearwater	\$15.00		
Live at Constitution Hall 1979 (Previously Unissued)(*)	\$15.00		
Live at Penn State (*)	\$15.00		
Live at the Franklin	\$15.00		
Live from Vegas CD	\$15.00		
Live from Vegas DVD	\$15.00		
Live from Vegas (DVD & CD)	\$25.00		
Live in Holland	\$15.00		
Live in the New Millennium	\$15.00		
Live Trombones	\$15.00		
Lost Soul - Curtis Calderon	\$15.00		
Love Songs	\$15.00		
More 5 Trombones/In Person Vol. 2	\$15.00		
Remembering Ken (*)	\$15.00		
Return to Romance/Live in Manchester (*)	\$15.00		
Road Shows	\$15.00		
Road to Portsmouth (*)	\$15.00		
Snowfall	\$15.00		
Star Spangled Banner - Single CD	\$5.00		
Star Spangled Banner - Five Pack	\$20.00		
Still Fresh	\$15.00		
The Liberty Years	\$15.00		
Through the Years (*)	\$15.00		
Voices in Brass/In Person Vol. 1	\$15.00		
Voices in Standards	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen and Friends LP	\$20.00		
"Now You Know" (Leather Bound Book)	\$100.00		
Book is \$120 for orders outside US			

## Subtotal

Shipping - \$1 per CD for US orders  
 \$4 per LP for US orders  
 Foreign Country: actual shipping costs for CDs  
 and LPs, \$20 for "Now You Know" book

## Total

(\*) Available to Members Only

Please use "Return Address" label when available - Thanks

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ AMEX \_\_\_\_\_ Disc \_\_\_\_\_

CC #: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Please Complete: then

1) mail to: FFS Music Mart  
 Barbara Emerson, Director  
 74 Doncaster Lane  
 Bluffton, SC 29909

or

2) fax: 866-538-9044

or

3) call 843-271-6001  
 or 888-448-7429

or

4) email: [johnejazz@sc.rr.com](mailto:johnejazz@sc.rr.com)

Make check payable to:

The Four Freshmen Society, Inc.

*In 1979, the Airmen of Note under the direction of Dave Steinmeyer had a concert at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. They had, as their guests, The Four Freshmen (group 6). That concert was preserved from the sound board by Dave Barnes. It was then cleaned up by Paul Halac. The result was a "new" CD of the Four Freshmen Live at Constitution Hall in 1979, backed by the Airmen of Note, the premier jazz ensemble of the U.S. Air Force. The Music Mart has embarked on a plan to find and release these rare recordings, particularly in years when there is no new CD from the Freshmen themselves. While the Society has done this in the past, we will now try to be more aggressive in this endeavor. We hope to have a "new" CD ready for each convention. We hope you enjoy this new material. Barbara Emerson*



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

by Donna Gallaway

Perhaps you have wondered, as I have, about what life is like for those Freshmen who have left the group and gone on with their lives. Having been a member of FFS for 28 years, I have been priviledged to know many of the Freshmen over the years, and I have thought about them long after we are no longer seeing them as part of our favorite vocal group. Below you will find the first of a series of columns bringing us up to date on the Freshmen whom we now refer to as former Freshmen.

## Curtis Calderon

*Curtis Calderon provided a wonderful video for all of us at the recent Denver convention, so I asked him to be the first in this series to fill in all of you who were unable to attend the Denver event. He was a valued member of the Freshmen legacy for more than 15 years. Thanks for the memories, Curtis!*

Hey friends! Life has certainly been non-stop since I "retired" from The Four Freshmen. At first it was mainly just being a dad, trying to keep my kid alive, to adding another, and then trying to keep two kids alive! That really was always the fear for me, and still is. There's always so much that can go wrong, but overall they're are doing well and we are all happy and almost getting some semblance of sleep these days.

The first two years after leaving the group, I essentially did some evening gigs and watched my kids. It's been great and times I know I'll never regret, nor forget. I've taken bunches of pictures and videos and even now, I do enjoy looking back and seeing how small they were and the silly things they would do and the silly things I would do!

Fast forward to about a year ago or so. Once time started to be a little better managed, the kids were getting old enough where during lunch, I could give them a bowl of fruit and they could hold it, eat it and not throw it across the room. So, as that time freed up a little, I started writing a little music here and there. I actually wrote some older style pop songs, influenced by musicians I admire, like Carole King, Stevie Wonder, The Beach Boys, The Eagles, etc.... Lots of the west coast sounds from the 60s move me for whatever reason it is. Maybe it was this southern Cali explosion, beautiful weather, this sense of freedom and exploration of new beginnings while reviewing some of the past. So, that started my writing and at some point, I'll likely release a CD of all that stuff. Fast forward another year to this year.

I have been playing a lot at the premier jazz club in San Antonio called "Jazz, TX". In fact, I even booked The Four Freshmen in here the last time they toured through Texas. At the beginning of 2019, I decided I wanted to do all original music there. So, the first week of January, I took a long weekend and wrote about 25 pieces of music. I basically rose in the morning and started writing and did so until about midnight. Got up the next day and did it again. Here we are almost a year later and I've added maybe a dozen more originals and have weeded out the weaker tunes. It's been a great experience and I really enjoy sitting at the piano and creating music. I've written a few new tunes in the style of The Four Freshmen as well, but more pop related. Maybe one day I'll release those and you all can see where my music mind is at - cause music is to be shared!

I still listen to The Four Freshmen all the time and am always in awe of Group 1. I'm also in awe of the beautiful playing Kenny Albers displayed

on live and studio recordings as well. I sometimes miss Don's huge personality on the recordings after he left, though my dear friend Bill Comstock put the part right in there beautifully. I now also try and sing some of Bob Flanagan's parts and have learned so much about lead singing from trying to copy him and Brian Eichenberger. Though they are so different in approach to the music, they both were remarkable lead singers, not just great, but beyond. I love listening to Ross talk and try to hear inflections in his voice on the live CDs where I could feel Bob Flanagan was messing with him - ha ha. By the way my kids tease each other, you'd have thought Bob and Ross were brothers! I heard *Ain't Seen Nothing Like You* there other day and wow, I really wish Hal could have stayed with the group a few more years before Ken Errair and eventually Kenny Albers joined. His voice was soooooo smooth and relaxed, cool.

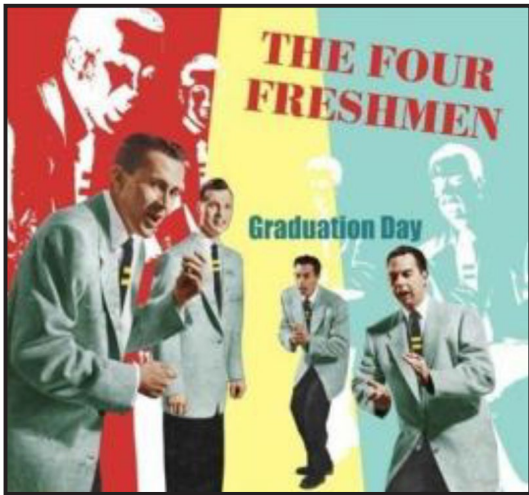
I never mean any group or individual was better than any other when I say all this, I'm just simply expressing my favorites and why. I have great respect for all the men who have come in and out of this group. Such a fantastic legacy.

So, my kids are getting older and soon, one will start school, then after I'm done blinking, I'm sure the other will as well. I have a cornet that sits out and every once in a while, we get it and try to get the kids to make sounds on it. They are getting there! My daughter loves singing as well and sings all the time.



# The Four Freshmen: One Fan's Inspirations and Connections

by Mark Schlichting

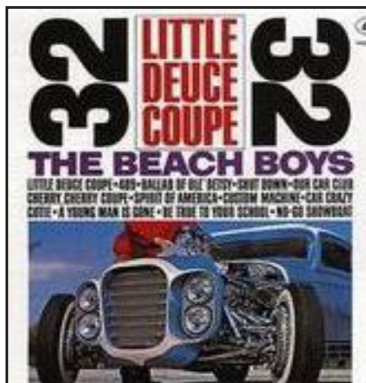


**In the Beginning:** I was born in 1948, the same year as my favorite vocal group, but I wasn't "turned on" to them until I heard their recording of "Graduation Day" in 1956. Then, I was hooked, at age eight! Their sound was everything I imagined college to be before I attended, everything I remembered college to be after I graduated, but nothing of what college was while I was there! Their music could do that; spin an image and a story that could transcend reality!\*\*\*

**An Early Inspiration:** 10 years later, in the spring of 1966 as a senior at Olympia High School, I attempted a FF "Graduation Day" arrangement for a male quartet, and we sang it for the "Senior Farewell Assembly." Although not a carbon copy of the original sound, it was a hit with the students. (At my 50-year Class Reunion on September 10, 2016 several fellow graduates remembered that performance!)

## Connecting The Four Freshmen and The Beach Boys:

I bought the Beach Boys' "Little Deuce Coup" album when it came out in 1963. The a capella song "A Young Man Is Gone" was fascinating to me, but as I later found, it was a rip-off of the FF classic "Their Hearts were Full of Spring." You can find both tunes on YouTube and have fun listening! The 2012 BBC interview of The FF and the two Brians-- Wilson and Eichenberger— alludes to this particular piece. If you haven't seen it, search: Four Freshmen 2012 BBC Interview and take a look. (Chaz Cone published it

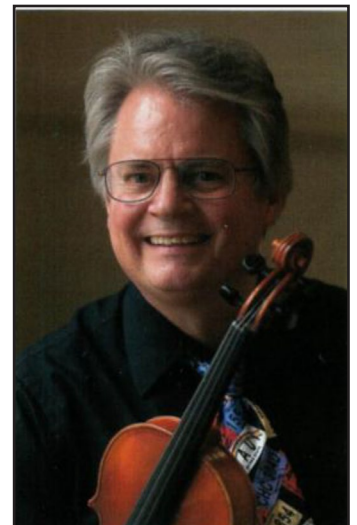
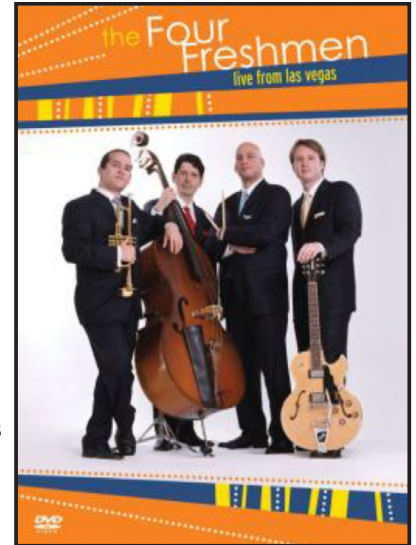


on YouTube only five days after it aired on BBC!)

**Reviewing a Hit:** When the Four Freshmen released their "Live from Las Vegas" DVD in 2006, I bought it and was so blown away by the talent of their membership and the authentic continuation of their legendary sound that I wrote a review for Amazon which remained on the site until Amazon ran out of inventory and suspended it. The review may be back now. Search: The Four Freshmen - Live From Las Vegas DVD.

**Magazine Exposure:** While being interviewed in 2008 for a local magazine article which recognized my local music teaching as well as my recent induction into the Washington Music Educators "Hall of Fame," I listed The Four Freshmen as my "Favorite Vocal Group!" (Photo attached.)

**Amazing Serendipity:** Working in Las Vegas during the summer of 2011, my son Austin, an accomplished composer and arranger, was somehow contacted by Connie Beisner to construct a realization of the piece that her late husband Mike Beisner (a Freshman from 1982-94) had composed for their wedding. Their daughter, Lauren, was being married, and Connie wanted the piece to be performed at Lauren's wedding as well. Austin undertook the realization task, and by all accounts it was a success!



Bellingham music teacher, Mark Schlichting, teaches the fifth-grade strings class at Columbia Elementary School. "What better job to have than something you are passionate about?" he says. Photo by Philip A. Dwyer



Austin Schlichting

**Part one of three... to be continued in  
the next issue of *Fresh News*.**



## Curtis Calderon (continued from page 9)

I'm looking forward to the day we can all play music together, but for now we just enjoy listening to all sorts of music together. It's a wonderful life and I'm fortunate to have the opportunities I do.

Sit tight because there will be lots of music coming out of South Texas in the next few years. I just finished recording a nice bossa nova CD and we already have plans for the next couple of ones, plus the easy going pop record and a small Latin ensemble one as well. If there's time, who knows, maybe The Four Freshmen inspired one as well. I do have a few standards I wrote Four Freshmen arrangements for. Maybe those can get recorded too. It's going to be an exciting couple of years!

Lastly, thank you all for writing letters to me and emails to me. I have failed to reply to almost all of them and I apologize. I have a stack of letters and it keeps growing and I think, "OK, one night this week, it's going to be quiet and I can sit down and write a nice letter back" and that seems to never happen. Know that I will do my best to catch up one day but if I fail to send anything, I thank you for your understanding. I know some want to be in touch, so I will leave you with my business PO box in case you would like to write anything, but you've been warned about replies - ha ha. Thank you all for the supportive words and the time you take to sit down and write me, it means a lot. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

Much love to you all,

Curtis

Calderon Musis, PO Box 773, Helotes, TX 78023



## The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

Check the Website: [fourfreshmensociety.com](http://fourfreshmensociety.com) or [fourfreshmen.com](http://fourfreshmen.com) for updates

For bookings: International Ventures Incorporated

Dale Sheets & Dina Sheets-Roth

P.O. Box 256, McGregor, TX 76657

Phone: 661-259-4500

Email: [info@ivmanagement.com](mailto:info@ivmanagement.com)

Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

### January 11, 2020

### Jacksonville, FL

Barbershop Harmony Society Mid-Winter Convention

Show time: TBA

Tickets: TBA

### February 5, 2020

### Palm Desert, CA

Pete Carlson's Jazz for Lovers Series, 73-141 Hwy 111

Show time: 7:00p-9:00p Tickets: 800-600-3263 or 760-568-3263

### February 6, 2020

### San Juan Capistrano, CA

The Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano

Show time: 8:00p

Tickets: 940-496-8930

### February 12, 2020

### Safford, AZ

David M Player Center for the Arts, 980 S 14th Ave

Show time: 7:00p

Tickets: 928-348-7070

### February 13, 2020

### Gold Canyon, AZ

GCAC Sounds of the Canyon Artist Series

Gold Canyon Methodist Church, 6640 S Kings Ranch Rd

Show time: 7:30p

Tickets: 480-983-2171

### February 21-22, 2020

### Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

The Dirty Dog Cafe, 97 Kercheval Ave

Seating times: 6:00p and 8:00p Reservations: 313-882-5299

### March 20, 2020

### The Villages, FL

Savannah Center, 1545 Buena Vista Blvd

Show time: TBA

Residents Only!

Fund raiser for the Bob Washington Jazz Scholarship

### March 22, 2020

### Sarasota, FL

Glenridge Performing Arts Center, 7333 Scotland Way

Show time: 2:00p

Tickets: 941-552-5325

### March 29, 2020

### La Mirada, CA

La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, 14900 La Mirada Blvd

Show time: 2:00p

Tickets: 714-994-6310

### July 24-25, 2020

### Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

The Dirty Dog Cafe, 97 Kercheval Ave

Seating times: 6:00p and 8:00p Reservations: 313-882-5299

### August 21, 2020

### Nashville, IN

Brown County Playhouse, 70 South Van Buren St

Show time: 7:30p

Tickets: 812-988-6555

## START MAKING PLANS FOR THE 2020 CONVENTION IN



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