

Our  
President,  
**Donna  
Gallaway**



## **GREETINGS Fresh Fans**

What a crazy year 2020 has been! I hope all of you have enjoyed some quality time with some family and friends over the holidays as you kept safe following the protocol. I feel grateful to be able to turn the calendar to 2021, looking forward to a very different year ahead- a new year with a fresh start filled with promise!

You have probably noticed in this edition of *Fresh News*, that the Freshmen are also ready to start 2021 with a Fresh new configuration as Ryan Howe has signed on to sing the first tenor part. Welcome Ryan! Bob says this group is ready to "put the pedal to the metal" and do their thing as soon as this pandemic is under control enough for them to start performing live again.

I feel sure that the past year has been more difficult than we will ever know for these talented musicians who have not been able to perform live shows through no fault of their own. Therefore, when they are finally able to perform in your area, let's plan to fill the venues with everyone we know to show how much we have missed them and their unique Freshmen sound! Another way to fill the void for all of us Fresh Fans is by planning to attend the next convention/reunion. There you can get your fill of the music we so love and interact with the four guys in an atmosphere drenched in all things Fresh.

On a sad note, we mourn the passing of former Freshmen Ray Brown who was part of Group #5 and performed 1973-1977. Ray died on Nov. 11, 2020 at the age of 81. Ray played keyboard and was always drawn to a piano whenever available. Some of my best memories of him are all about the fun and entertaining way he would gather a large group around a piano at the conventions. One instance of that took place at a convention years ago where I found myself sitting on the floor along with lots of FFS folks and the then Freshmen while Ray entertained us with his version of *Findercella*. He was able to sing and tell a story by switching starts of words around that was really hilarious. I always wondered how he did that! Ray could belt out the standards as well as the goofy tunes. He will be missed, and we offer our prayers and sympathy to his family, but we'll be together again!

# **WELCOME TO 27!**

by Bob Ferreira

Hello fans and friends. This has been one crazy year, but with every challenge comes an opportunity for positive forward momentum. After seven years of contributing his immense musical talents to the group, Stein Malvey has decided to hang up his road shoes to pursue new and exciting musical ventures. We all wish Stein much health and success in all his future musical endeavors. One thing we strive for as a group when a personnel change is imminent is that the person coming in brings something unique and positive in the way of personality and musicality. Ryan Howe exemplifies both of these attributes in spades. Ryan joined us in November and we performed our first shows in Largo, Florida on November 15th singing the lead part and playing bass... Yes, you heard me correctly; THE LEAD PART AND BASS! Tommy Boynton has wanted to sing an inner harmony part for quite some time and has taken over the guitar duties. Ladies and gentlemen, I will just tell you that in my 28 years with the group I have never been more excited to hit the stage with three guys as I am with this current line up. With only one day of full group rehearsals we had two amazing performances! Ryan brings lush and powerful colors to the melodies, Tommy has such power, control, and fullness on the second part that just makes chords light up. Jake's smooth tone on the baritone part provides a beautiful inner anchor to the harmonies. These guys are phenomenal!

I cannot tell you all how proud I am of these three guys. These gentlemen go so far and above what is required of them and beyond what most 'working musicians' would do. They don't do it for a mere paycheck. These guys do it because they love their craft, they love making great music, and they love The Four Freshmen and all that its music, history, and legacy entails. These guys are the pure essence of dedication and I am truly humbled and proud to be working with these wonderful human beings. We will be doing all we can to get out there and perform for you all when it safe and appropriate to do so and look forward to some exciting projects on the horizon. Until then, please stay safe and healthy and we will see you all very soon!

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## **A Brief Commentary on Future Freshmen**

by Dave Bentley

Gil Peterson called me a day or so ago and suggested I write a brief piece for *Fresh News*. Gil thought some commentary by me on a fund-raising project I started in April would be appropriate and informative to the many readers of our favorite newsletter. So here goes:

This idea sprang up at the very beginning of the pandemic. I realized quickly that the boys (our favorite vocal group) were in for a very rough patch. While I did not at the time know the extent nor the severity of COVID-19, I was prescient by luck to start when I did. The idea was simple: I posited that The Four Freshmen have, for many, many decades, given us boundless enjoyment with their unique and iconic music. Why not put a treasure chest together which could be used for their next recording, and give the contents of the chest to them? No strings attached. A pure gift.

There were those who suggested to me that it would never work in this environment. I thought differently, and have been proved correct. As of this writing, we have raised a bit more than \$32,000, and it seems we will reach our goal of \$40,000. When the new recording will be done is unknown due to this pandemic, but it will be done, and this group of givers known as *Future Freshmen* will each get a recording signed by The Four Freshmen and will have the knowledge that we have created a worthy source of funding for these four great guys.

If you're interested in joining us, please contact me at [dbentley@optonline.net](mailto:dbentley@optonline.net) or my home phone: 203-972-1916.