



“Before Tommy Boynton’s phone call in late September 2019, I had never heard of The Four Freshmen. I couldn’t have imagined singing professionally, let alone becoming a part of an organization with its own fan club. However, that one call changed everything.

Looking back on that moment, I should have been ecstatic, but the truth is, I was far from it. The adrenaline rush of a lifetime opportunity had landed in my lap, and I was

terrified. The recordings Tommy played for me, especially *It’s A Blue World*, were beautiful yet intimidating. I had never sung in such a complex harmony group before, but I decided to give it a try.

My initial fears could have easily discouraged me, but what kept me going was the incredible support I received from Bob, Tommy, and guitarist Stein. They welcomed me into the group like family, helping me with vocal technique, sharing their favorite Freshmen recordings, and even indulging my dream of playing disc golf in every state.

That first year was a strange one for us all, as it was the beginning of 2020. Those first couple of shows were full of firsts and strange events for both me and the group. My very first show with The Freshmen was at a golf shop with no sound equipment. My second show was apparently the first time the band had an audience member order them a round of shots to the stage. Through these extremes I realized something: Four Freshmen fans LOVE The Four Freshmen. Sadly, I wouldn’t be able to experience the full scope of this love the first year due to the Four Freshmen Society Convention being cancelled.

As we started our long break due to the pandemic, I dove into as much Freshmen music and history as I could and slowly started to realize that I was now part of something that was much bigger than myself. We all want to change the world, but how many of us get the chance to be a part of a band that changed the course of music? Being a part of The Four Freshmen has made me feel connected to so much rich musical history. This became extremely apparent when I finally got to attend my first Four Freshmen Society Convention in Bay City, MI. Every person I met at this convention had a new story about seeing The Freshmen for the first time or stories about the guys. Hearing folks of all ages talk about what The Four Freshmen meant to them made me even more proud to be a part of this now 75 year tradition.

Fast forward to today as I’m nearing my 4th year in the group, I feel just as excited every time I step on stage as I did that first gig in the golf shop. Bob, Ryan, Tommy and I have a shared sense of pride and dedication to this sound, this legacy, and to you, the best fans in the world. I’m thrilled to think about the future and the new generations that The Four Freshmen will inspire. Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey with us. “



Gosh I love being in The Four Freshmen.

I will never forget the moment I was asked to sub with The Freshmen and audition for the group. I was cooking some dinner (tofu if I recall) and it was truly a surreal moment. I stood there sort of aimlessly stirring the food, sort of in shock... Of course, I said, “Yes.” File the moment under “W” for “wildest dreams.”

As many of you have probably heard one of us (likely Bob) say, this current group really seems to click on a different level. Our shared love of this music has led to friendship-infused performances which inspire us to keep turning the pages so-to-speak with the Freshmen musical legacy.

For those that still never got the memo, I had to stop playing bass with the group in May of 2022 when I was diagnosed with MS and began experiencing issues with my hands. When that all happened and I realized I couldn’t play, I was devastated and fully expected that to be the end of my Fresh journey. The guys in the band had different opinions though and I remember how supported I felt by them. Bob said “It could happen to any one of us.” We were also just about to release a new album that I was singing lead on so it made sense. Now most people seem to love the sound of having upright bass at each gig, not to mention they can be cumbersome and expensive to travel with.

All of that is to say that although it’s been an adjustment for me and for fans, going through everything with the guys has really made the group feel like family, which, seems apropos when one thinks about the Barbour brothers. The Four Freshmen Society has definitely become an extension of that family for me. Not as close as brothers or sisters but maybe like, 2nd cousins? I guess I’d just like to say that so many of you have said kind supportive words to me since I made my situation public, and I really want you to know I appreciate it.

The Four Freshmen Society Convention already had such a beautiful place in my heart before (I had attended San Antonio, Louisville, and Dayton) and my experience since joining the group has only been outstanding. I hope the conventions, like the group, last forever so I can come back some day and be a wannabe and sing all these tunes we love so so much.

