



I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER!

By this point I might sound like a broken record, but when I get asked repeatedly by fans and friends, "Do you still enjoy it?" I can't help but reply with something to the effect of, "I'm enjoying it as much if not more than the day I started!" But, in pondering this further I find it somewhat of a difficult comparison from when I first joined The Freshmen

to the current days, partly because of that initial feeling of awe in being asked to join such an iconic vocal group, and partly due to the energy of that new and exciting chapter opening for someone at that young and influential age who never before experienced performance or life on that level. I sometimes have wonderful and vivid flashbacks to my very early years and those old feelings of newness and awe briefly flood back covering me like a warm blanket. These feelings have always superseded any critical comparisons I might have between the musical quality of a specific group incarnation I have taken part in, mainly because my memory doesn't necessarily hold on to the specifics of how well a particular show went, say 25 years ago, but rather, WHERE I was those 25 years ago and with whom.

Bob Flanigan would often say that he couldn't tell you the first thing about most of the performances he had done over the years, but could lay out for you in detailed volumes where he was and the vivid memories of his travels. I've concluded from this that although the performances are the relative constant, the travel and people I have experienced along the way have always varied in many beautiful and memorable ways. Those are the two major factors for me that solidify and sweeten the memories of any specific performance experience.

That being said, with all that nostalgia that may flood back, I can't help but feel joy and gratitude for many things in regards to my recent years in this storied group as well as the future. The steadfast dedication and joy expressed by our fans and friends in the FFS have always and continues to make me feel part of a special family; a family I was born into with acceptance from the beginning and at a pivotal time in the group's history that could have easily ended after Bob Flanigan's retirement. The fans and friends in the FFS embraced the 'new boys' and spurred us along to continue this great legacy. This is something that has never wavered to this day even in the challenging times of recent years so I am always grateful to all of you who have been there and supported us over the years.

My joy and gratitude are also held strong because of these amazing guys I have the honor to work with. Jake's musical virtuosity is something to behold every night he takes the stage. There is never a moment I am not in awe of his passion and talent. Ryan has such a unique eloquence singing that iconic

melody part and has truly become the glue for the group's vocal sound. His solo voice is nothing short of prolific. Through life's adversities Ryan has shown a spirit and fortitude for which we all should aspire. Tommy, what can I really say about Tommy? I'm not sure I have ever met anyone with such a passion for music and life as I have seen in Tommy. He has gone above and beyond for this group so many times it is hard to keep count. His level of passion, empathy, and versatility is a big part of what has created a strong foundation in this group for the past nine years.

These three guys are true students of the craft, extremely passionate about the music, history, legacy, and future of this group, and just amazing human beings overall. I am proud to call them my friends.

So, when I repeatedly get asked, "Do you still enjoy it?", do not be surprised when I reply, "I couldn't be happier!"



It's official. January 1st marks a significant milestone – 9 years with The Four Freshmen! To put this into perspective, it's longer than the American Revolutionary War (1775-83), King Tut's reign (around 1333 BCE to 1324 BCE, this one's particularly wild because he became Pharaoh of Egypt at the age of 8), longer than World War II, and about 1/30th as long as Adwaita the Giant Tortoise's remarkable

lifespan of 250 years. While it may not compare to Bob's impressive 31 years with the group, reaching this anniversary is a personal joy for me.

A heartfelt thank you to the talented musicians I've shared the stage with – Curtis Calderon, Stein Malvey, Jon Gaines, and our current group, whom I genuinely adore. Touring with the Four Freshmen, creating this music, and navigating life's twists together have forged a truly priceless bond. I appreciate the growth, both musical and personal, that you've inspired in me.

The Four Freshmen Society is a phenomenon I've never seen elsewhere. Building a global community around our shared love for this music is extraordinary. Meeting and forming relationships with so many of you, whether at conventions or during our travels, is something I hold dear. Your smiles and warmth mean a lot, and some of you have treated me like family, showing a type of care I didn't expect from just being in a band. Perhaps that's because the Four Freshmen isn't your average band.

Being part of this band and community is an honor. I hope my presence has brought as much joy to you as this music brings to me. If not, well, bah humbug! Wishing you all a Happy Holidays, and looking forward to crossing paths with you down the road!