

Isn't It Great To Have Friends

by Ray Brown

In a James Taylor song the words "ain't it nice to know that you've got a friend," proved to be true when a very devoted Four Freshmen friend, Mr. Julian Bond, Chairman of the NAACP, called his friend Charles Morgan to tell him about his other friends, The Four Freshmen.

I first met Mr. Bond in Atlanta while singing with Ross, Ken and Bob at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta in the 70s. The next time I met him was at the Washington, DC, FFS convention.

I've known Charles Morgan, owner of Harbor Docks, for about 20 years, but we never talked about my adventures on the road or the people I had met. Neither had we talked about his past associations. I now know that Charles' father was an attorney for the NAACP for many years and that Charles practically grew up associating with Julian Bond, who owns a condo in Destin and comes down occasionally for a respite from his duties. Here's the "friend" connection as pertains to the Freshmen.

Julian called Charles and told him he would be spending the first 2 weeks in March in Destin. Charles asked him if he would like any special entertainment booked into Harbor Docks and Julian asked him to get the Four Freshmen.

Charles had heard of the Freshmen, but thought they were a folk group, of all things, Nevertheless, he was going to get them for Julian. Charles called Bill Campbell, a friend of mine who is a newspaper columnist and the local encyclopedia of entertainment.

Bill called me and told me of Charles' wishes, so I called Charles. The phone conversation went something like this:

"Charles, what are you up to?"

"Ray, I'm sitting here listening to The Four Freshmen for the first time in my #%&*ing life!!! I can't believe I've never heard these guys before!!! Holy *&...*...this is the greatest sound I've ever heard!!!"

I checked with Flanigan and found that the guys were in Florida during that time and that they had March 6th open. I checked with the airlines and found that it would be no sweat to fly them here and then on to their next gig.

So, I took a contract to Charles and that was that. In another column I'll give you my review of that concert. But, ain't it nice to know that Charles has a friend? Now, thanks to Julian Bond, he'll enjoy the Freshmen sound for the rest of his life.

Stupid Statements Made by Famous People

"Your food stamps will be stopped effective March 1992 because we received notice that you passed away. May God bless you. You may reapply if there is a change in your circumstances."
Department of Social Services, Greenville, South Carolina

FN April, May, June 2005

Champaign Memories Linger Forever

4Fresh sounds do NOT leave the audience

by Ken Krancher, Central Illinois

Four Freshmen Singers

Those Four Freshmen enthusiasts that traveled to Champaign, Illinois, on Friday, February 4, were treated to another spectacular performance by Bob, Brian, Curtis and Vince. Their precision singing and instrumentation is outstanding and clearly, in our minds, the best music in the world!

The Champaign Sweet Adelines warmed the audience with an upbeat program that included a parody on old newlyweds ("Side By Side") and a clever reflection on what school was like when they were youngsters. After a short intermission, the Four Freshmen took the stage in spectacular fashion. "Day In, Day Out" and "You Stepped Out Of A Dream" got thunderous applause and we were all on the edge of our seats.

Staples like "Somebody Loves Me," "Angel Eyes," "Rain," and "Poinciana" had the same familiar, wonderful sounds. Their specialty numbers were exciting and featured Vince in "Round The World," Brian in "You've Changed," Bob in "How Do You Keep The Music Playing," and Curtis with his fantastic trumpet solos in many songs. After 22 numbers, the audience was clamoring for more but settled for "And So It's Over."

The more we hear this 22nd Four Freshmen combination sing, the better they sound. We love their new CDs and we can't wait for these guys to return to Illinois to hear them again.

Have you heard??? by Roy Meyer, NJ

I just came across an LP in my collection that I completely forgot I had, and have never even played it since purchasing it at a flea market years ago. It's a Philips monaural recording entitled: "The Fabulous Counterpoints, With Wally Stott and his Orchestra." Upon playing it for the first time, I said to myself "close your eyes and you'd swear that you're listening to the Four Freshmen!"

Have you ever heard of this group? If so, what can you tell me about their career? The back of the jacket indicates that they are from England, and were rapidly becoming Britain's number one pop-jazz vocal group at the time it was recorded (obviously, many yrs. ago). It states that they also accompany themselves as instrumentalists as the Freshies do, but on this album they are strictly backed by the big band, which is also sensational. Some of the standards they included are:

Pennies From Heaven

Yesterday

April In Paris

There Is Nothing Like A Dame

April Showers

Lullaby Of Broadway

Once In Love With Amy

I look forward to your response with great anticipation, and wonder if they are still actively performing/recording.

CHORD-ially, Roy

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