

Fresh News

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APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2010

FRESH VALENTINES IN WISCONSIN!

By Wayne Corey
FFS-Wisconsin



Four Freshmen Society living legend John Bangs was at the February FF concert in Door County, Wisconsin. John (L) chatted with veteran FF fourth voice & drummer Bob Ferreira after the show. John, the founder of the FFS Music Mart, is Chairman of the Board Emeritus, former Board Chair and long-time President of the Four Freshmen Society. He attended the concert with FFS Wisconsin representative Mike McCoy and FFS Board member Wayne Corey. John recruited Mike and Wayne to the then-fledgling FFS in 1991.

Three songs never recorded by Four Freshmen Group #22 were highlights of the Valentine's Eve show in Door County, Wisconsin. A small but enthusiastic Fish Creek audience welcomed the Freshmen to a venue that has through the years seen headlines Harry Belafonte, Roseanne Cash, Smothers Brothers, Second City, George Winston and, more than a decade ago, the Four Freshmen.

Door County, a northeast Wisconsin peninsula sandwiched between Lake Michigan and Green Bay (the bay, not the football city), is a tourist haven much of the year but can lie quiet under a beautiful blanket of snow mid-winter. That's why the Freshmen were there for Valentine's weekend. The Door Community Auditorium wanted topnotch entertainment for couples making a winter weekend getaway. The couples got their weekend getaway, the snow covering and the topnotch entertainment.

In "This Whole Wide World, I Remember You" and "Give Me the Simple Life" are Freshmen favorites never recorded commercially by Group #22. "Wide World" and "I Remember You" seemed to really thrill the audience, with the stunning chords opening "Wide World," and the 'distant bell' really ringing out in "I Remember You." Fan

favorites including It's a "Blue World," "Route 66," "Poinciana" and "Angel Eyes" wowed a crowd that came to hear the hits. They heard 'em!

The Freshmen followed opening standup Minneapolis comic C. Willi Myles with 17 songs in a 60 minute set. The Four Freshmen Society-Wisconsin hosted a pre-show reception and dinner. Freshmen Vince Johnson joined fans for the post-concert "afterglow" at The Landmark Resort where FF and FFS members spent the weekend.

A highlight for the Freshmen and FFS members was the attendance of John Bangs, legendary FFS official. John founded the FFS Music Mart, is responsible for many of the Four Freshmen CD releases through Collectors' Choice Music, was a longtime president of FFS and is currently Board Chairman Emeritus. Health issues have curtailed his FFS convention attendance in recent years but fan club members were thrilled to have him with us in Door County.

BRIAN EICHENBERGER'S POP MASTERPIECE

by Wayne Corey
FFS Wisconsin



I like Ike. A lot.

Whoops, make that “iKE.” The name of Brian Eichenberger’s new project may have had some twists and turns on the way to “iKE” but the music on “One” is a straight-ahead joy to hear. And yes, the name is spelled with a small “i” and capital “KE.” iKE. Brian says it was sort of a nickname, “Back in the day...”

It was going to be a five player band and be called Eich Five. But there were never really five players, and there was never really a band. Amazon.com sells the CD by Eich Five, but the name on the CD quickly morphed into “iKE,” as “iKE” it has remained.

One is a pop/rock album. Let there be no misunderstanding: a member of the Four Freshmen has written and recorded a pop/rock album and it is filled with absolute musical joy. Brian says it’s comprised of ten of his best original tunes. The music may come as a surprise or a shock to some Freshmen fans, but it just demonstrates again the remarkable array of talent that exists within the Four Freshmen group #22.

Your reviewer is not an expert on pop/rock, but I know good music when I hear it. Hoping to overcome an obvious personal bias when it comes to work by any member of the Four Freshmen, I enlisted the analysis of

two people whose ears and tastes I really respect. They concurred. “One” is all killer, no filler.

Brian wrote all of the songs and plays most of the instruments. Group #20’s “Still Fresh” CD documented his keyboard chops. “One” offers conclusive proof. We also hear him on multiple guitars and bass. Twin Cities musician Tait Cameron does the drums and percussion work, while CD producer Jon Herchert adds guitar on three tracks. Rebecca Sorensen is the added voice on “Ghost Band.”

Brian can write and perform pop/rock music at an extraordinarily high level. With Herchert, he has also brought remarkable engineering and production skills to this project. Noted rock writer Susan Masino cited “great production” that, combined with the songwriting, makes the album “very commercial.”

“He’s got a couple of hits on here,” Masino told me. She should know. She is the author of the definitive biography of AC/DC, “Let There Be Rock” and counts the late Wizard of Waukesha, Les Paul, among her many musical friends.

Four Freshmen fans believe they know what Brian sounds like and, indeed, we do. But this is different music with a different sound. Like many artists, Brian appears influenced by much of the music he has heard through the years. Expert ears hear other influences when they listen to “One.” Sting, lead vocalist for The Police, is most often mentioned. Repeated listening to the CD suggests influence from numerous pop performers including Jack Johnson and Prince. Brian may have been influenced by many, but there is nothing in the music that is derivative. The end result is a distinctive sound that is distinctly “iKE.”

Favorite “One” tracks are in the ear of the beholder. Susan Masino picked “One Thing,” “When You’re Gone” and “Anybody Out There.” Singer Christopher Corey, after months of repeat listening, named “If I Gave You My Heart” and “Still,” the latter a lovely song about a relationship of many years. This writer is fond of everything on the CD but I especially enjoy “Still” and the rocking “Rebecca.”

Any analysis of Brian’s CD must include a comment on the final track, “Ghost Band.” Yes, it is obviously about Brian’s day job, so to speak. The opening line says, “Way back before we were born, we used to be really big.” His tongue remains firmly in cheek for the remainder of the track about “the sound that never dies.” Some Freshmen fans chuckle when they hear “Ghost Band.” Others may not. Personally, I think the song is a lighthearted look at Brian’s main musical life since 1996. Thanks to FF group #22, the Freshmen sound is “the sound that never dies.”

“One” can be purchased through www.iKEmusic.com for \$10 or downloaded for \$5. It’s a bargain! “One” is a stunning accomplishment, the opening solo volley from an artist and concept that this listener hopes will lead to much more. We want Brian in the Four Freshmen beyond any doubt. But this writer also wishes him the solo success that his immense talent deserves.

Note: The author wants to thank Susan Masino and Christopher Corey for enthusiastically lending their ears and expertise. A version of this review was published at the Four Freshmen-Wisconsin Website, www.madison.com/communities/4fresh.



ARTIST’S NOTE: Of course my tune “Ghost Band” is supposed to be a joke. I’ve listened to my share of Randy Newman and Don Fagen over the years, so that tongue in cheek humor vibe wore off on me a little. I wrote most of that one on the bus during a Japan tour we did a few years back. I was looking for a lyrical idea for this sort of “halloweenish” tune I was working on, someone had said something that day about the FF being a great “Ghost Band” ... I thought that was funny, the idea of this band of ghosts on stage rocking out - and it just fit, so I went with it.

Best,
Brian

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David Knox & DD Schact, Winterville, NC
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From the Pres.:

We are fast approaching April 2010 when the ides of April bring the payment of taxes and thoughts turn to spring.

This first quarter was filled with excitement caused by the "Four Freshmen and Live Trombones." Its release turned out to be a quality effort and all who worked on it should be congratulated.

Speaking of discs, did you know a two DVD album of the Atlanta "Blue Moon" convention was released and the quality level was credible. More about CDs, I was able to get about 70 copies of Group 21 "Live in the New Millennium." It's on sale for eight bucks at the Music Mart. The other two are also for sale out of the "Mart." Speaking of the Mart, Bob Lininger now has email at his disposal for orders.

By this time, I'd hoped to be able to announce the replacement for Chick. Unfortunately, in this Society of 2K plus, no one has come forward to be the Editor. T. Purvis and I reluctantly continue to temporarily prepare the FRESHNEWS. Is there no one out there able to do this for the Society? Our attempts to locate a volunteer have not been fruitful at this writing.

Having spent my work years in aerospace, I was able to do business with a major subcontractor for Hughes Aircraft Co., who was located right off the Chesapeake Bay. I had the pleasure of visiting them and Annapolis, MD on several trips and am looking forward to being there for another weekend. The scenery is great and Annapolis is a lovely quaint little town surrounded by water, sailors, ships and crab sandwiches! Get it!

See you in Annapolis in August!

Keep Live Music Live!

Mel Meyers, President, FFS
02-17-10

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

Submit manuscripts to the Editor:

Tom Purvis

tpurvis@nwonline.net

The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

Check the Website: fourfreshmensociety.com or fourfreshmen.com for updates

For bookings: International Ventures Incorporated
Dale Sheets & Dina Sheets-Roth
25864 Tournament Road, Suite L
Valencia, CA 91355-2375
Phone: 661-259-4500 FAX: 661-259-1310
Email: info@ivimanagement.com

Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

For information or questions call: Mel Meyers 419-380-8596

April 8, 2010 Sacramento, CA

Sacramento Community Center Theater with the Krupa Orchestra
1301 L St., Sacramento, CA
Tickets: 916-808-5181, www.saccca.org Show Time: 8:00pm

April 9, 2010 Napa, CA

Napa Valley Opera House with the Krupa Orchestra
1030 Main St., Napa, CA
Tickets: 707-226-7372, www.napavalleyoperahouse.com
Show Time: TBA

April 10, 2010 Antioch, CA

El Campanil Theatre, 602 W. Second St.
Tickets: 925-757-9500, www.elcampaniltheatre.com/events/four_freshmen.html
Show Time: 8:00pm

April 18, 2010 Scottsdale, AZ

ASU Kerr Center, 6110 N. Scottsdale, AZ 85253
Tickets: TBA Show Time: 3:00pm

April 20, 2010 Surprise, AZ

Sun City Grand, 19726 N. Remington Dr.
Tickets: TBA, www.grandinfo.com Show Time: 7:00pm

April 24, 2010 Bay Springs, MS

Jazz In The Grove, 43 Highway 528
Info: 800-898-2782, www.jazzinthegrove.net
FREE Admission, Show Time: TBA

April 29, 2010 New Orleans, LA

New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival
Fair Grounds Race Course, 1751 Gentilly Blvd.
Tickets: 504-410-4100, www.nojazzfest.com Show Time: TBA

May 15, 2010 Junction City, KS

C.L. Hoover Opera House, 135 West Seventh St.
Tickets: 785-238-3103, www.jcoperahouse.org Show Time: 7:30pm

July 2, 2010 New Kensington, PA

Arnold Homecoming 2010, Valley High School, 703 Stevenson Blvd.
Tickets: 412-231-6744, www.arnoldhomecoming.com Show Time: 8:00pm

July 3, 2010 Philadelphia, PA

Harmony Foundation Presents ~ The Four Freshmen
Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch St.
Tickets: 866-706-8021, www.harmonyfoundation.org/presents
Show Time: 2:00pm

July 9-11, 2010 Las Vegas, NV

Southpoint Hotel Casino & Spa, 9777 Las Vegas Blvd. South
Tickets: 702-797-8055 or 866-796-7111, www.southpointcasino.com
Show Time: 7:30pm

Freshmen Fans Exchange

The following members are interested in helping others who may need to buy or sell Freshmen LPs, 45s, memorabilia, etc. Send a note or call. If you're looking to buy an album or more, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope to expedite communication.

Don Boland
665 Woodward Rd. N.
PROVIDENCE RI
02904-3146
401-724-8822

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972-690-1643

Anita Berry
Jazz Cruises, LLC
Suite 720
230 South Bemiston Avenue
St Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mrs. Berry;

Re: 9th Annual Jazz Cruise, 2009

I am finally sitting down at my computer to write you a letter. I wanted to thank you, your sons, and your staff for such an enjoyable experience on the above mentioned cruise. This was my first experience on a cruise ship. I was attracted to participate because of the music.

I had never seen or heard the latest "Four Freshmen" group before. This was a strong factor in my decision to experience my first cruise ship as this group was scheduled as part of the music available. I was further influenced by the number of very talented jazz musicians listed in the lineup, not the least of whom was Johnny Mandel who I was aware was a significant composer and arranger, especially for movie soundtracks.

The Jazz Cruise was a musically exciting experience. The peak music experience for me was in seeing and listening to the "Four Freshmen" I was very impressed that this group sounded as good, if not better, live as any of the recordings of them I have heard. I felt the intonation of their voices was superb, the harmony balanced and full, and the phrasing and enunciation of their words was very precise. The evening when this group performed with the large band has to be my favorite, which I believe included the group singing with a five trombone backup.

I really enjoyed the talent and sound from the large band made up of the jazz performers. The band was certainly made up of so many jazz soloists highly talented and capable of presenting interesting solos, technically performed, but expressive and melodic.

Additionally, the jazz combo sessions made up of the "all star musicians" I found exciting and enjoyable, and I tried to attend each if not all of these, which kept me busy trying to plan ahead for each day.

I was impressed with Ken Peplowski, the consummate reed instrument player. I don't believe I had seen or heard him before the cruise. He has such a command of reed instruments, and his organizational skills appear to be essential for the Jazz Cruise. I left the cruise with a high appreciation and regard for his musical talent and skills.

I have several friends who have experienced cruise ships. I was warned by them that the meals on these ships were of gourmet quality. I now understand what they were telling me. I found the dining experiences memorable, with every meal of high quality and very tasty. I had the opportunity to try some meals which I had never eaten before the cruise. Now I am trying to reduce my calorie intake to compensate for the week of gourmet delight on the Jazz Cruise. Not easy for me!

I am happy I participated on the Jazz Cruise. It was a musically exciting experience for me and I have pleasant memories of the week of jazz music, each day of which I found resulted in a musical high for me.

Thank you.

Doran E. Smout

January 25, 2010

Email and the Four Freshmen Society Membership Department

In the database that I maintain for the Society, there's a place to store your email address and I've been diligently putting email addresses in as I receive them. This being said, only about 25% of the membership has a good email address listed.

I'm sure that there are more members with email than I have recorded, and I'm appealing to you to help me improve the quantity and quality of the addresses we have. Why? Because sometimes we need a quick way to get the word out on some time-sensitive events. And because email is so darn efficient!

I've put up a password-protected web page where you can go and check your email address for accuracy. There's a link there that you can click to let me know if it's wrong (or if you're not listed but you do have an email address). Would you take the two or three minutes to help me out?

Just go to www.fourfreshmensociety.com/members and follow the instructions. You'll be asked for a username and password; the user name is "113" and the password is "club" (lower-case, without quotation marks). Please do NOT share the password with anyone outside the Society. Extra credit if you email me with what "113" and "club" means to the Four Freshmen!

You can email me at chaz@fourfreshmensociety.com (if you have a different email for me, that one will work, too).

Thanks so much for helping me get the record straight!

ReFRESHingly,

CHAZ

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ffsmembership@fourfreshmensociety.com

A Four Freshman Groupie reporting from Atlanta...

Andrea Coleman, FFS Georgia

It was just four years ago that my husband, Ron, heard an announcement on the radio that the Four Freshman would be in concert with the Macon Symphony Orchestra. He had been a huge FF fan in college and we have carted his collection of albums all over the U.S. for the past forty years.

What a great concert! They sang the same wonderful songs in that FF style, close harmony with a soaring melody. Even the same kind of banter we had heard on our old LPs. We were determined to find a way to hear them again.

A few months later, we traveled to Thomasville, GA and saw them in a refurbished high school auditorium. It turned out to be a great weekend getaway — the concert was wonderful, we stayed in a lovely B&B and enjoyed roaming the streets of that pretty southern town before heading back to Atlanta.

Our next concert was in Toccoa, GA, a small town in the northeastern corner of the state. We fought the 5 o'clock traffic around Atlanta on a Thursday night and managed to arrive just as the concert was starting. The performance was in a large auditorium and it was packed. People must have come from miles around and, as usual, the FF did not disappoint. They put on a great show, sang everyone's favorites, and kidded about everything from Big Bob's bald head to the trials of the touring life.

That summer we attended the convention in Indianapolis where the FF celebrated their 60th anniversary in style. The fabulous Indianapolis Jazz Band took down the house on Friday night. What a sound, especially when the FF joined in! Besides hearing the FF in back-to-back concerts, we really enjoyed visiting Indianapolis.

It was a year before we heard them again at the convention in Atlanta. This time we brought some friends with us and they were thrilled with the music. They fully intend to catch the FF at the Red Rose Inn Ballroom in Plant City, FL in March.

It seems that following the FF around the country has brought some extra bonuses we never even anticipated. On our way to Morganton, NC just last weekend, we arranged to see some friends we had not seen in years. We stopped in Cornelia to see a dear friend and lunched in Davidson with a favorite couple. We even made some new friends at a local hot spot after the concert which, by the way, was one of the best ever. Maybe it was because we were in the second row, center. I don't know, but the crowd agreed: the music was great! Everything blended so perfectly. When the melody goes to the higher reaches of Brian's voice, he is never harsh or too strong. He blends in perfectly and can even soften the sound which is difficult to do in the higher registers. They all have so much talent! Where else would you hear a duet between a bass viol and a trumpet?

We are planning to extend our range and see the FF in Las Vegas next summer. Hopefully, we will connect with some long lost friends, maybe even some high school classmates, class of '59, who have resided on the west coast for most of their adult lives.

If ever I tell someone about our adventures to see the FF and they look at me in a dubious fashion, I simply answer, "My kids travel all over to see Pearl Jam. We travel around to hear the Four Freshman." They will then nod and understand!

Many thanks to the FF and the FF Society for keeping this music alive!

REFLECTIONS

of the Four Freshmen

by Roderick Dayton, FFS Pennsylvania

A few years ago while attending the FFS Pittsburgh Convention and partaking in Ross's Freshmen Wannabes, the lady next to me politely turned and said, "You really know all their songs?"

"Well ma'am, I've been a Freshmen Fan for most of my life and how about you?" That nice lady turned out to be Sue Barbour, Ross's wife. They both embraced me with Frosh anecdotes for the remainder of that convention.

The following year in Indianapolis after seeing Ross and Sue, I made available a copy of my Fresh News story - published almost 20 years ago - on how I became a Freshman Fan. After a good review they sent it back asking me to revise it for re-publication. So, with some changes to the original this is how the Freshmen greatly influenced my life and my own music career.

It was a July afternoon more than 50 years ago, and I was counting the days to when I'd be leaving the Dominican Sisters in their convent/children's home in the suburbs of New York City. I'd spent all of my childhood there, and upon approaching my 17th birthday, I looked forward to my enlistment in the Air Force. Listening to the radio while mopping the convent's dormitory floor, a song came on with an interpretation I'd never heard before. The music so moved me that I actually dropped the mop and put my ear to the speaker to hear the rest of "Day by Day" as I habitually took interest in an unusual and distinguished musical score. The early memories of my mother's beautiful singing voice, being a choir boy and over the years with many school performances, song sessions with the other convent kids along with playing bugle in the fife and drum band had consumed me with a love of music.

"Day by Day's" new sound with the Latin arrangement was so original that I was disappointed when the DJ didn't announce the name of the group. The song stuck with me for days as I longed to hear it again. My early exposure to Latin rhythms was the hushed singing of the convent's homesick Latino kids pining for their homes and families. Whenever the band equipment was distributed, the instrument tune-ups turned into a whimsical impromptu Latin music session on those very elementary instruments. That is until the convent prefect shouted, "OK you guys cut that out, this ain't Puerto Rico, fall into your marching positions."

Back then, Latin rhythms were rarely heard on mainstream radio. Now the Samba, Rhumba, Mambo, and exciting Latin rhythms were being introduced to a wider audience. Trumpets, conga drums, cow

bells, and artists like Perez Prado, Tito Puente and others were changing the sounds that were expanding American popular music. This was how I took note of that catchy Latin sound and those harmonic voices in "Day by Day" that hooked me. When finally I heard the song again the announcer mentioned the group as the "Four Freshmen." The other convent kids hadn't heard of them yet, but you can believe I made sure that the record would be put on the jukebox's waiting list in the diner where we all gathered after caddying on weekends. Unfortunately, I joined the Air Force before I would ever hear it played there.

During my basic training at Sampson Air Base, I got my first weekend pass for Rochester, NY. Waiting for the Greyhound bus, I heard the jukebox blaring out "Day by Day," and I rushed back to play it again and again. Missing my bus and having to wait three hours for the next bus, the ticket attendant wasn't too pleased after hearing that song for the tenth time in the now empty station. Upon arrival at the Rochester USO, the hostess was giving out tickets for the evening events. I mentioned to her the song I'd heard by the Four Freshmen. She told me how she too loved the group and that they sang a song in a movie that was playing in town called "Lucy Gallant." You can imagine where I spent my first evening! In the film I heard the flip side of "Day by Day" called "How can I tell her." The soft vocal harmony on this song was also a new exciting discovery for me.

Until then, I had no personal outlet, for every moment of my life had been a demanding regimen restricted and accounted for to the authorities in the convent/home and now the military. This was a landmark day when I could determine my own artistic interpretation and a search for music that would shape my future. Afterwards, sharing my enthusiasm with my service buddies I would learn for the first time the great catalogue of music that had bypassed me in my early life. Subsequently, I was to learn the Four Freshmen had been around for some time.

My next assignment was Sheppard Field in Wichita Falls, Texas for Tech School. There I was able to buy my first record player, and "Day by Day" was my first record. The music store in town carried several other Freshmen singles including "Blue World" and "Voices in Modern." The sales clerk ordered an album in the EP version to fit my record player, the just released "Four Freshmen and Five Trombones." That album, with its extraordinary musicianship, captivated me forever to the Freshmen sound which had expanded my musical tastes, and where in a very short time I learned the words to every song. I held a secret passion to be an entertainer and now studied the ever increasing Freshmen discography and their musical discipline as a guide for my own budding profession. In the service, I was probably viewed as something of a nuisance as I tried out my singing talents at every opportunity where a band was setting up or on stage. Obviously, I lacked a musical business sense but nobody told me I shouldn't try and more often I was asked to sing. There were also those service club talent shows where I harmonized with Freshmen-style Wannabes and other vocal groups.

During this period, there was an introduction of so many new promising vocal groups. I still remember The Tattle Tales, The Hi-Lo's, the Kenton Presents Series with Al Belleto Sextet, even the Mexican group "Los Tres Ases" and other groups that slip my memory right now.

That was the time of the "Elvis Spring," especially in Texas. Now, there was a cross section of music if ever there was one! Both Elvis and the Freshmen came to Wichita Falls that spring, albeit weeks apart. Well! My first concert ever was some experience for this 17-year-old former convent kid. Along with

REFLECTIONS (continued)

the Freshmen, on the bill were the Ted Heath Orchestra, June Christy, and Nat King Cole.

After the show, I bypassed the adoring throng that surrounded Nat Cole and elatedly helped the Freshmen pack up in the auditorium and roll their equipment out to the bus. My conversation with Ross Barbour and the rest of the Freshmen just about bubbled the starch out of my khaki uniform. I even got to meet June Christy, who called me “a cute soldier!”

Performing one night stands, the tour would continue across the endless highways of Texas. In a publication I discovered called “Variety,” I would read about that famous “Road Show,” and follow their schedule across Texas and the Deep South. I was envious of their opportunity to travel almost everywhere they had a waiting devoted audience while my passion for adventurous artistic freedom was still restricted. Years later, I mentioned this story to Bob Flanigan who still remembered me and his words were: “Oh, God, back then I thought we’d never get out of Texas.”

After my military service, I explored the country in various jobs and tried out my singing and vocal impersonation skills at every potential opportunity while I visited the cities to catch the Freshmen performing thus acquiring new repertoire. Eventually, I found myself a student at Los Angeles City College and later at L.A. State where I occasionally sang with the college bands. Always in possession of my collection of Freshmen singles and albums, this was the time Jim Pike was interested in me as a member of his newly forming group “The Lettermen.” Slowly, I was being taken seriously, and the musical director at State told me I sounded very much like the up-and-coming much talked about jazz guitarist and singer Frank D’Rone. When I learned that Frank was a regular performer in San Francisco, I made frequent trips up to see him. Though unknown to Frank then, he was a great inspiration and my secret vocal mentor. Over time, my determination and rising self confidence paid off with my own musical talent seeking its own audience. With my new bride Suzy, we set sail for Europe to hone this talent.

I worked there for years as a musician and singer in various clubs, hotels, casinos, military bases and European tourists’ resorts in Spain and North Africa. I was often invited to perform in the Soviet bloc countries. My repertoire included songs in German and Italian. Meeting with Soviet students there, I found a great hunger for western style jazz and music and discussed Willis Conover’s jazz program on “The Voice of America Radio.” The Freshmen were a regular feature in Europe on the Armed Forces Radio and Radio Luxemburg, sandwiched between the new British Pop, Motown and a rising clamor for American Country music. The adventure of this business to

pursue a “gig” regardless of where it was offered had me accepting offers to perform in the Far East and some exposure to their growing color TV industry. In time, I was producing my own shows and booking reviews far and wide. Returning home, I toured Alaska and then down to South America.

After all, I chose this career to experience the world, and often more than 25 years of performing on the road, cruise ships and as master of ceremonies, entertainment director at holiday resorts I reviewed the wisdom gained from my whirlwind encounters. Eventually, I relished some domestic stability, taking less demanding work to administer performing arts. I changed careers.

My biggest regret is that period of time when I lost touch with the Freshmen as they changed personnel and recording labels and the industry technology changed. Then years later, the Capitol Collectors Series was released and I found out about the great work of John Bangs and the FF AS. There was the tremendous support of the FFS staff and friends of the Freshmen who were always eager to extend themselves. Our dedicated Chick Trafford would call my home whenever the Freshmen were quickly scheduled in the area. I was teaching ESL in China and contacted Yas Ichiura in Japan asking him to send me a hard to find CD and he came through. When I couldn’t find any CD recordings on Frank D’Rone, the FFS put me in touch with the incomparable Paul Halac, who has everything ever recorded by Frank along with a priceless collection of Americas favorite artists. From Paul, I learned to my delight that Frank still performs in the Chicago area.

Looking back at my own life, it was indeed the music of the Freshmen giving me my first experience of discovering and exploring on my own, their unique style and musical expression which nonetheless continues to influence so many artists and vocal groups. I never forget that I was one of them. Two of my sons continue my legacy with their own groups: One performs in California and on occasion Las Vegas, while the other performs in Vermont and the eastern region.

Now as a teacher and historian, I operate motor coach tours all over the country and Canada. You can be sure whenever I have the appropriate crowd and the moment presents itself, I slip in a Freshmen CD and there is always someone who can start up an exciting conversation of our favorite group. Sometimes we all lapse into a memorable sing-a-long. Ross would be proud!

I still applaud the guys who found the “sound” and the new Freshmen who continue this great American musical heritage. Now you know.

(Note) The author Rod Dayton was a Performing Arts Director for NYC with Mayor Koch’s office for four years.

Editor’s Note:

This article is an updated and expanded version of a piece included in the January 1995 issue of *Fresh News*, now adding to the influences and legacy of the Four Freshmen.

YTD 2009 Balance Sheet

INCOME

Dues.....	20,379.00
Music Mart.....	12,596.94
Interest earned on CD's	420.77
Interest earned on Business Savings	
Contributions	5,524.00
Convention Income	5,304.84
TOTAL INCOME.....	44,910.37

EXPENSES

Postage and shipping.....	2,866.56
Stamps.com service.....	207.87
Telephone and Fax	1,039.10
Posters	17.53
Office Supplies/Convention Supplies	1,009.04
New Member Pacs.....	227.80
Storage for Music Mart.....	1,556.26
Credit Card Merchant Charges	3,694.93
Web Site Expenses/Software Expenses	829.95
Due and Music Mart Refunds.....	22.00
Marketing and Membership Drive	2,253.85
Bank of America Charges	57.26
5/10/20 year ins.....	995.89
Merchandise for Resale	2,023.30
Transfer to CD or Money Market	(42,221.00)
Convention Expenses	1,159.10
Advance to Toledo Convention	519.40
Collected funds to the 2009 Committee	68,446.19
State Representative Expenses.....	114.30
Loan to FFS Inc.....	23,000.00
Expenses for Live Trombones new CD.....	13,683.50
Donation in memory of Chick Trafford	200.00
2009 "Live from Vegas!" CD Expenses.....	4,219.75
IRS Federal Taxes	6,586.00
Kentucky State Income Tax	1,121.00
Kentucky State Corporation Fees	236.35
Accounting Fees (Tax Preparation)	920.00
Insurance and Bonds	750.00
Newsletter (Fresh News).....	12,033.06
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	107,569.01

Cash Balance from Prior Month End.....	8,797.13
Receipts, Dec 2009.....	4,628.42
Expenses, Dec 2009.....	(2,660.95)
Bank Balance, Dec 31, 2009.....	10,743.26
Business Savings Account at Bank of.....	23,945.58

Total Cash.....34,88.84
Jim Whitmire - Treasurer 2009

Convention 2009 Committee Receipts.....68,446.19

Vinyl is Back!

An excerpt from AARP Magazine Jan/Feb 2010

Record companies are making money from vinyl again: Vinyl record sales soared 89% in 2008, while CDs, falling prey to Internet downloads, continued to trudge down the road to extinction. Music giant EMI has released some 65 classic albums on vinyl, including acts ranging from Frank Sinatra to the Beastie Boys. U2's newest album "No Line on the Horizon," Bruce Springsteen's latest "Working on a Dream," and Harry Connick Jr.'s "Your Songs" have all done brisk vinyl business.

We're in the Movies

The 1951 movie, "Rich Young & Pretty" was recently released on DVD. This 1951 film includes a song by the Four Freshmen: "How do you like your eggs in the morning?" This DVD is available from Critic's Choice at 800-367-7765 or www.ccvideo.com. The current catalog lists the item # as KCWBA022758 and the reduced cost is \$23.96 plus shipping and handling - Enjoy!

Editor's Note

We are considering devoting a future issue of "Fresh News" to Stan Kenton. We have received considerable material which we feel would be of interest to our membership as many are also devoted Kenton fans. We would be pleased to receive any Kenton-related material from our membership that may be appropriate to include in such an issue. Articles, photos or memorabilia can be submitted to: Tom Purvis, Acting Editor, 1004 Sunset Plaza, Sandusky OH 44870.



Atlanta was host to the 22nd annual Four Freshmen Convention/Reunion on August 20-22, 2009.

The Four Freshmen were in great voice and great spirits and the 400 members of the Four Freshmen Society had a wonderful time.

FreshFan Dan de la Torre spent hours making video of just about everything that happened at the Convention. He spent many more hours editing the video into four hours of really great entertainment. You're holding the results in your hands right now. Thanks so much, Dan!

If you were there, you can re-live the fun; if you weren't, maybe this will encourage you to attend the next FFS Convention/Reunion and/or the ones after that. We hope you do! As always, all the info about the Freshmen and FFS happenings are on the website: www.fourfreshmensociety.com.

Thanks to Dan and the Atlanta committee for making all of this possible -- and to the Four Freshmen for wonderful music and memories. Thanks also to Greg McLean and the GPC Jazz Ensemble for backing the guys up so professionally, and to Ray Brown and Don Kennedy for MCing. And, finally, thanks to the FFS members who performed on Thursday night at the Jam Session; we loved it!

We hope you enjoy the music and the fun!

ReFRESHingly,

The Four Freshmen Society

The Four Freshmen:

Brian Eichenberger, lead voice and guitar
Curtis Calderon, second voice, trumpet, fluglehorn
Vince Johnson, baritone voice, bass
Bob Ferreira, bass voice, drums

The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Music Mart - Price List 2009

See Item # on "CD Song List" for detail

Item Title	Cost	Total
DVD Live From Las Vegas	\$30	_____
Each additional	\$25	_____
1. CD Live From Las Vegas	\$20	_____
2.* Remembering Ken	\$10	_____
3. Snowfall	\$20	_____
4. Live/Millennium	\$10	_____
5. Voices in Modern	\$17	_____
6. Voices and Brass/Person	\$17	_____
7. Live in Holland	\$20	_____
8. In Session	\$20	_____
9. 50 Years Fresh	\$16	_____
10. From the Jazz Factory	\$17	_____
11. Graduation Day	\$15	_____
12. Voices in Standard	\$15	_____
13. Still Fresh	\$14	_____
14. Freshmas	\$15	_____
15.* Return to Romance	\$17	_____
16. Capitol Collectors Series	\$15	_____
17. Trombones /Trumpets	\$14	_____
18. Five Saxes/Guitars	\$20	_____
19. Voices in Latin/Fresh Year	\$17	_____
20. Love Lost I Voices Love	\$15	_____
21. First Affair Notices Fun	\$20	_____
22. Swingers/Stars In Eyes	\$17	_____
23. More Trombone/Person II	\$17	_____
24. Live at Butler University	\$15	_____
25.* Old Friends	\$20	_____
26.* Live at Penn State	\$15	_____
27. The Liberty Years	\$17	_____
28.* Through the Years	\$15	_____
29. 50th Golden Anniversary	\$17	_____
30. WAZE / Clearwater Jazz	\$15	_____
31. Nine CD's Box Set	\$144	_____
32. Star Spangled Banner	\$5	_____
5 for	\$20	_____
33. Silly Songs / Rhymes	\$15	_____
34. Lost Soul - Baker Tribute	\$15	_____
35. Ken Albers Charts	\$28.50	_____
Overseas	+3.00	_____
36. Discography	\$15	_____
37.* Video Pittsburgh 2006	\$10	_____
38.* Video Grand Rapids 2004	\$15	_____
39.* Video Oshkosh 1991	\$15	_____
40.* Video Stockholm	\$15	_____
Culmination, G. Stegeman	\$17	_____
41. Four Freshmen		_____
& Live Trombones	\$20	_____
GRAND TOTAL		\$_____

*Available to Members ONLY

FN APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2010

MUSIC MART - Order Summary

Please Complete: then 1) mail to

FFS Music Mart

Bob Lininger, Director

PO Box 11475

Pittsburgh, PA 15238-9998

or 2) fax

412-781-5268

or 3) call

412-781-5267 for info

or 4) email

boblininger@hotmail.com

*Yes!
Bob finally
has a computer.*

Total Product Cost

\$ _____

Plus Credit Card (only) Handling Charge

\$ 1.00

Plus 7% Sales Tax --PA Only

\$ _____

Plus 10% Overseas Shipping Charge

\$ _____

Grand Total

\$ _____

CHECK # _____ made payable to: The Four Freshmen Society, Inc.
or

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT (both USA *and* Overseas members eligible)

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

Credit Card Number _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration ____ / ____ / ____

Print Name as it appears on card _____

Authorized Signature _____

.....

SHIPPING ADDRESS:

Name _____

Number/Street/Apt _____

City _____

State or Province _____

Country _____

10 Digit Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

"Swingin' in Sarasota"

By Dick Hatfield, Ohio.

The Four Freshmen furnished a full evening of ear candy to 497 fans on March first. Every seat in the Players Theatre was taken.

Bob, Vince, Brian, and Curtis, looking pleasingly more slender, took to the stage and literally owned it. You know, it's worth the price of admission just to hear them sing "The Day Isn't Long Enough," "Please Remember," and "Every Time We Say Goodbye," but this night they debuted their new treatment of "Polka Dots" and "Moonbeams." Man, it was the best I ever heard. Wow! Then, again, every gem they sang was met with audience approval.

The occasion was organized by the Jazz Club of Sarasota, the most active jazz club in the United States. It was part of their 30th annual weeklong festival.

Following intermission, the club presented the Freshmen with their distinguished "Satchmo" award. This was the first time the award was presented to a group.

Florida FFS Rep Elmer Schroeder and his wife were bustling with activity at the CD/DVD table in the lobby. It was a busy two days for them with the Freshmen appearing the day before in Largo.



Right: The Four Freshmen in performance, February 9th, 2010 at the McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert, CA. No photos were allowed. However, FFS favorite photog, Dan de la Torre, managed to sneak this outstanding photo just before they threw him out! It is sort of IL DIVO "lite." Great job, Dan!

More... "Swingin' in Sarasota"

Don Follett, Minnesota

Who worries about the cold weather outside when there is hot jazz inside?

While Pelicans and the locals shivered outside in Florida's unseasonably low

temperatures, your favorite quartet provided the musical warm-up for the 30th annual Sarasota Jazz Festival the week of March 1.

gave their best in a two-hour concert before Jazz Club of Sarasota (JCS) members and other jazz aficionados. The audience also included a good group of FFS members, including 2010 Convention co-chair Biscuit Wev from Maryland, Jack and Mary Morrison from Michigan, and Dick Hatfield from Ohio, along with several Floridians in FFS garb who shed their mittens to applaud our guys. Their show kicked off a six-night series of jazz artists at the storied Players Theater, and was among a half-dozen scheduled gigs for the FF in Florida in a two week period.

The quartet sang your favorites -from "The Day isn't Long Enough" and "Little Girl Blue" to "Polka Dots" and "Moonbeams" and "Guilty," the latter from the new CD. Given the weather, Freshman Curtis Calderone

couldn't resist plugging the group's Christmas "Snowfall" album as well.

Curtis' enthusiastic horn work led the charge for hot jazz appetites, while lead Brian Eichenberger's vocals hit the high notes with precision while on guitar. Bob Ferreira was steady on the drums and Vince Johnson owned the audience whistling happy tunes like "Got That Old Feeling."

You have a favorite? How about an up-tempo "Day In, Day Out" and "Something's Got to Give," pop lyricist Johnny Mercer couldn't be prouder. Or from the "Five Trumpets" and "Live at Butler" albums "There Will Never Be Another You" or "Rain." Some song list!

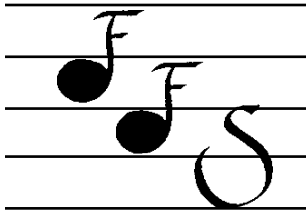
After the concert, the FF CD sales table was crowded. The club's sophisticated jazz fans bought tickets early, made the event a sellout and stuck around for post-concert conversation.

AWARD PRESENTATION

Of course the evening's highlight was the Freshmen receiving the JCS "Satchmo" award, the organization's signature event of the year. It was an honor previously presented to the likes of jazz greats Gerry Mulligan, Dave Brubeck, George Shearing, and others (see story in the last "Fresh News.") The award is named for Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, among the fathers of Dixieland jazz and considered by many to be the past century's best trumpet player.

During the show's intermission, Bob Ferreira, senior in FF tenure, accepted the award on behalf of the group, underscoring SJC's long-time devotion to the arts and good music in the community. "It's a truly a great honor to accept this award," said Bob to heavy applause as he received the plaque from Gordon Garrett, JCS's Chairman of the Board. Long-time JCS member Jerry Roucher read an introductory tribute and profile of the FF pointing to their long history and putting them in the pantheon of jazz giants. No strangers to this audience, the Freshmen have performed numerous times to crowds in Sarasota, none more appreciative than on March 1.





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The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Visit our Website: www.fourfreshmensociety.com

You asked for it -- you got it!

We've produced a two-disc DVD set from the "Blue Moon" Convention in Atlanta last August.

Dan de la Torre has done his usual fantastic job of making and polishing the video. Virtually all the music (and fun) from the convention is on these two DVDs. When I showed them to friends who weren't able to attend, their comment was, "It's just like being there!"

The DVDs are available only to members of the Four Freshmen Society. The cost is \$25 including postage to the US (shipment outside the US adds an additional \$5). \$25 gets you BOTH DVDs!

You'll see the big band set and the self-contained set from Friday night, both FF sets on Saturday night, the Thursday night jam session, Ross Barbour's original lyrics to "Georgia," Wannabee music, Bob Flanigan's birthday cake presentation by Miss Georgia, the now-famous "Blue Moon" routine and much more. There's nearly four hours of FF entertainment including 53 songs by the Four Freshmen.

CHAZ

Chaz Cone
2009 FFS Convention
Chairman

Disclaimer:

The sound on the video was recorded by the on-camera microphone. It's surprisingly good -- but don't expect the quality of, say, the professionally-produced "Live from Las Vegas" DVD. That said, We think it's terrific! Nearly 250 copies have already been sold to FFS Members; don't miss out on getting yours!

