

Fresh News

Volume 25, No. 2

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2011

Ross, The Extra

As told by founding Freshman, Ross Barbour



Ted Driscoll gives Ross some directions while on the book tour.

A Letter from Ross

It seems that everyone I know had a bout with cancer before I got mine, and they all told me to keep them posted. Well, OK.

The recent CAT scan told us that we are doing the right things. The cancer is slightly reduced. I'm feeling OK. I'm tired, but that is standard. I'm eating well and I have no pain. Please don't worry. That's enough of that!

They tell me the supply of Freshmen CDs in the Music Mart is shrinking, and some of these dandies can't be re-stocked, when they are gone they are gone!

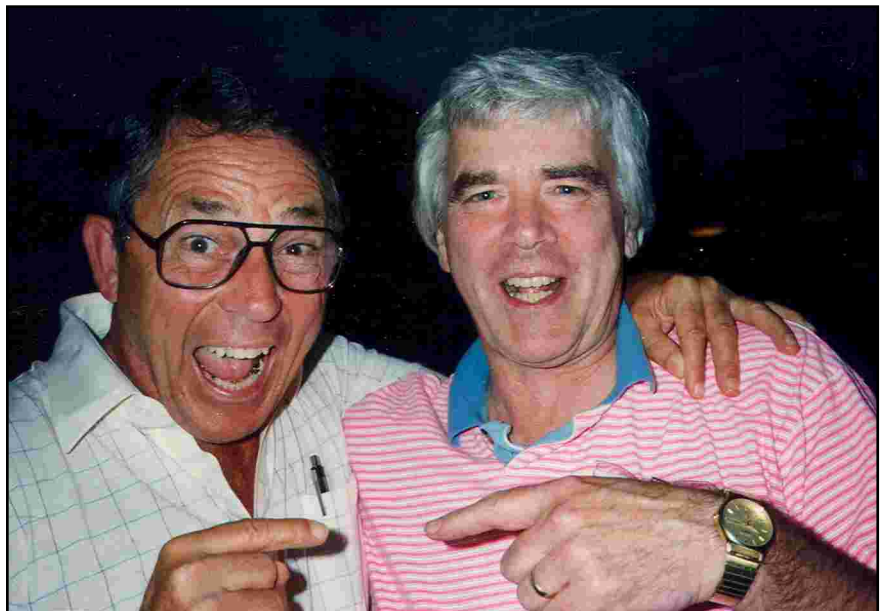
One of the things I wanted to do after I got off the road was to become a movie "extra." I hoped I'd get into a western movie. I'd be one of the cowboys leaning on the bar when the sheriff comes through those bat-wing doors and shouts, "I need a posse! You, you and you—come with me." We'd ride off in a cloud of dust. Wouldn't that be fun? Well, it never happened for me.

It was in 1992 I got an agent, sent her some photos of myself, and I didn't wait very long until I was in "Beverly Hills, 90210," "Wonder Years," and in the movie "Hero." I was a derelict. In "Body Guard" (Whitney Houston & Kevin Costner), I was in the audience.

In "The Frank Sinatra Story," I was a newsman with a camera that used flash bulbs. Oh, and in one scene, I was in the rear seat of a DC2 (yes, 2—they only made one or two; they made the DC3 with 3 seats across, and nobody wanted the DC2). Anyhow, Frank Sinatra was begging Tommy Dorsey in the front seat for a day off to go home when Nancy was born. Nobody saw me in that one, either.

It's funny how it works. You get off the elevator as the star gets on, and nobody sees the "extra."

It paid \$5 an hour for 8 hours, \$10 an hour for the 9th and 10th hour, and \$20 an hour for any time after that.



Who did it?

GOOD JOB !

Alaki, Yutaka (Japan)

Although I'm not a person who describes heavily his experience, I cannot prevent myself announcing the FACT. The Frosh in front of me was the GREATEST!

talents, slightly but unacceptable missed harmony, current PA systems and the audiences. I think that even the legendary group (#4) was not the exception (and I don't want to mention about the groups #2, #3, or even #1 themselves). Yet, the group #22 have done well.



Above: The Four Freshmen with Alaki and his friends.

Below: Three of us and eight of Kyushu party.



Since, as you know, the creators of this vocal quartet had climbed the highest on their initial days, the successors had to maintain that level. It is a very tremendous burden. In the past, the heavy load sometimes made their feet slip. Or, like St. Antonius, they suffered from undesirable factors which are the unsuitable way, wrong road, the individuals'

This year, I have attended their performances at Hiroshima and Osaka. Before my attendance, the guys performed at Tokyo and Yokohama. Though friends of mine told me that the performances of this year were so beautiful, I figured their comments were an overestimation because they are very fond of the guys. But not so, they had told me the truth.

The performance at Hiroshima was not a big one but a small one. The place was set in the gallery of an extremely rural town, 200 miles away from central site of Hiroshima. The gallery? This space? How many listeners can be acceptable? I think that probably many of the audience didn't know the name of The Four Freshmen. Probably this might have been the first experience for many of the audience. I think that probably the half of them were suspecting about The Frosh until they heard, because the guys were so young for the audiences that they were regarded as the fledgling group. The performance started and the FROSH have completely wiped out all apprehension.

I believed that all of the audience understood the amazing music by THE true professional musicians. None of audience was noisy. None of audience was yahoo. Acapella songs were performed in the quite quietude. All of them received complete tunes without losing a single note. We were very impressed.

#22 is often evaluated as a good vocal group. I agree with that. Plus, I feel they have progressed. I have noticed that the pitch of individuals of the Frosh have grown to be exact - more than ever. I have noticed that the articulation of phrases have grown to be complete more than ever. I think this is a result of "Off-mike singing." Additionally, the pitch of Mr. Johnson's whistling was exact more than ever.

I have a copy of "In Session" which is my favorite album. I listen to it even more after the Hiroshima concert and noticed this fact and was convinced they have developed from the age of "In Session." Now, swearing on a stack of Bibles, I want to mention that current Frosh is at the highest.

As I mentioned above, the gallery is in the extremely rural town. Although it is not easy to go there, my dear FFS friends, Mr. and Ms. Motoda and Mr. and Ms. Nakano who live in Kyusyu drove 270 miles spending about 6 hours in the car with four other people. Before the concert, the four of them, male quartet, sang "For Their Hearts Were Full of Spring" in front of the Frosh. Of course, the Frosh sang the same song for them, leading the way. I heard that the eight of them were satisfied so on with the concert in spite of long, long drive.

I attended the Osaka concert with my brother, who is a conductor of a male choir and he has never heard the Frosh. He was surprised and impressed. He said "They are the real one!" After the concert, he bought some CDs of the Frosh and begged for their autographs. The Frosh have moved him.

It is very tough work to maintain THE level, but I believe #22 guys will go on. Thanks very much.

Sir George Shearing

Died Feb. 14, 2011

George had a limitless sense of music, and a boundless sense of humor. He was born blind in England 91 years ago.

We Freshmen and The Shearing Quintet did a week together in San Jose, and, before that, a tour of the West coast in concerts. One evening, we and George were walking and came to a cross street. I was beside him and I said, "I'll help you, but I haven't done this before." He said, "It's OK. I won't let you fall." Do you see what I mean about his sense of humor? He had zest in his music and his life. He was knighted in 2007 by Queen Elizabeth.

George, we tip our hats to you.
Ross



Ross, The Extra (continued)

For the movie "Bram Stoker's Dracula," we would start around 5AM with make-up (I wore "mutton chops"), then wardrobe issued us antique clothing. I had a tall black hat and a suitcase and a cane. There must have been 60 or more extras in antique clothes—guys and gals—walking on the old London street in the rain.

Gary Oldman was the star. There was a guy driving a horse pulling a light wagon, and he couldn't control his horse. It bumped into me, and I stopped him and shook my cane. The next time we walked through the scene, the horse headed toward Gary Oldman's back. I shouted, "Hey, Gary! Watch out behind you!" He turned and dodged so the horse missed him. Extras don't talk to stars, but I did that time. We just went ahead filming. They had us in costume and make-up, so they used us all day and half the night—and they did it the next day, too.

There were fringe benefits. Every filming I was ever in, there was a table loaded with fruit, cookies, donuts, coffee, and cold pop waiting for the crew and extras. And at lunch, a food truck would come and bring the tastiest dishes for us. I guess being out of doors and being hungry had something to do with it.

I really enjoyed seeing how the electricians and the crew co-operated and got things to happen the way they should.

In "Quantum Leap," I was a priest helping Scott Bakula through some hard times. At lunch, an extra I knew as a joker said to me, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned," and I said, "Go to Hell!" The extras enjoyed it.

James Garner was the star of one movie, and his movie name was "Ross." The first couple of times the director called, "Ross," I answered and was red in the face. In "Route 66," I was in the bus that stalled on the railroad tracks with the train coming. Those Route 66 guys saved us. In the movie "Bugsy," Annette Bening and Warren Beatty didn't know I was eating at the next table. They were busy falling in love. They were married shortly after that. You won't see me in that one, either.

Ben Gazzara and Jaclyn Smith were at the table next to mine in their movie. Jaclyn ate with the extras. None of that "star" stuff where they have their flunkie bring them a plate and they eat in their trailer.

In the movie "Chaplin," Robert Downey, Jr. (Chaplin) was seated in front of us 4 or 5 reporters. It was during his paternity suit when James Woods (prosecutor) pointed at Chaplin and said, "This little TRAMP." We newsmen were told to respond, and we did, but the director, Sir Richard Attenborough, came to me and said, "You responded too much." The next take, we got it right. You'll see me in that one.

You'll see me in "Beethoven," too. Dean Jones played a bad doctor. He tricked Beethoven's family into thinking he was a dangerous dog. Then they realized they needed the little girl to see Dean Jones mistreating Beethoven. She tells her dad, and the family goes after the bad doctor.

Well, they called me in and put Dean's clothes on me. There was a wig and his glasses, and his watch. From a distance, I was Dean Jones, and I was to whack Beethoven. For your information, I didn't ever hurt the big dog, but you'll see me out that little girl's upstairs window for about two seconds.

I did about 60 different things as an "extra," and I really enjoyed it. Maybe you would, too. They need all ages and all sizes. You wouldn't work every day so you'd have time to be a tourist, and when you work I'm sure the pay is better now so you could buy groceries.

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Spouse _____

Address _____

(9 digit zip please)

Telephone # _____

Fax # _____

E-mail _____

New Member Fee: \$32.00

Single or Couple (worldwide)

All Renewals: One Year \$22.00

Two or more years \$17.00 each year

FFS dues are not tax deductible.

Please mail form and correct fee to:

Chaz Cone

FFS Membership Dept.

6900 Hunters Knoll NE

ATLANTA GA 30328-1763

Or renew online at

www.fourfreshmensociety.com/dues

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Deb Albano, Dearborn, MI
Jack & Kari Barnes, Kill Devil Hills, NC
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Jack Chapman, Suffolk, VA
Ms. Machiko Chikada, Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan
Arnold Clark, Oak Brook, IL
Richard Curtis, Munster, IN
Marilyn Derby, Carleton, MI
Andrew & Elvie Edwards, Paradise, South Australia
Alice Fannon, Carmel, IN
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Ann Herndon-Cox, Tulsa, OK
Mr. Nozawa Hisaaki, Tokyo, Japan
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Sue Schulte, Gibraltar, MI
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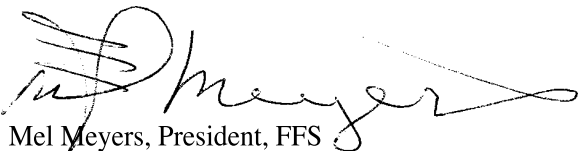
Contributions

Marlynn Ray
Tony Leone

FROM THE PRES...

Here we are in March! "The weather out side is frightful" and we are making plans for the Sept. 8, 9, 10, convention. The membership is responding very well to the planned event. We still have rooms and registration space for those who are still undecided. Really, this is going to be a "Holy Toledo" show. We are concentrating on using as many Toledo vendors and staff in the selection of our vendors as Toledo was hit very hard by the recent change in the economy so we are trying to help out as much as we can. Wow! The Four Freshmen, Toledo Jazz Orchestra, and lots of good food and surprises! Come on down! I look forward to seeing you all.

Refreshingly,



Mel Meyers, President, FFS

*“Musicians don’t retire;
They stop when there’s
no more music in them.”*

Louis Armstrong, U.S. musician

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Deadlines for consideration of articles:

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@bex.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
25115 Avenue Stanford, Suite A-102
Valencia, CA 91355
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, 2011 Easton, PA

State Theatre, 453 Northhampton Street,
Box Office: 800-999-STATE, Show Time: 3:00pm

April 10, 2011 Sidney, OH

Sidney High School Auditorium, 1215 Campell Road, Show Time: 7:00pm

April 15, 2011 Cleveland Heights, OH

Night Town, 12387 Cedar Road,
Reservations: 216-795-0550, Show Times: 6:00pm and 8:00pm

April 16, 2011 Cleveland Heights, OH

Night Town, 12387 Cedar Road,
Reservations: 216-795-0550, Show Times: 6:00pm and 8:00pm

April 17, 2011 Cincinnati, OH

Xavier University Gallagher Theater, 3800 Victory Parkway
Show Time: 3:00pm, Tickets: TBA

April 29, 2011 Indianapolis, IN

Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Venue: Hilbert Circle Theatre
Tickets: 317-639-4300, Show Times: 11:00am and 8:00pm
www.indianapolissymphony.org

April 30, 2011 Indianapolis, IN

Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Venue: Hilbert Circle Theatre
Tickets: 317-639-4300, Show Time: 8:00pm
www.indianapolissymphony.org

May 01, 2011 Indianapolis, IN

Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Venue: Hilbert Circle Theatre
Tickets: 317-639-4300, Show Time: 3:00pm
www.indianapolissymphony.org

May 07, 2011 Modesto, CA

8pm The Gallo Center for the Arts, 1000 I Street
Box Office: 209-338-2100/877-488, www.galloarts.org

May 18, 2011 Boston, MA

Scullers Jazz Club, 400 Soldiers Field Road
Tickets: 617-562-4111, Show Times: 8:00pm and 10:00pm
www.scullersjazzclub.com

May 20, 2011 Concord, NH

Capitol Center for The Arts, 44 South Main Street, Stan Kenton Tribute
Featuring The Four Freshmen & the Capitol Center Jazz Orchestra
Tickets: 603-225-1111

May 22, 2011 West Warwick, RI

West Warwick High School, 1 Webster Knight Drive
John Badessa 16 piece Jazz Orchestra opening at 1:00pm
Four Freshmen on at 2:00pm
Ticket Price: \$30, Tickets & Info: 401-724-8822 (Don Boland)

June 18, 2011 Minot, ND

Minot Area Council of The Roosevelt Park Arts 4th Annual Festival
Tickets/Information: 701-852-2787, Show Time: TBA

(continued on page 6)

HOLY TOLEDO

It's almost here. We hope you all are looking forward to The 2011 Convention here in Toledo Ohio. And those of you who are still sitting on the fence, you don't want to miss it. We will have some tried and true activities and some new surprises. The concerts will be in a large room with plenty of good seating. So stop hesitating: send in your registrations now. This one promises to be big. It would be wise to get your hotel reservations in now. Also, remember those staying at the Park Inn have free parking and the parking is in an attached parking garage.

For those of you coming in early, there are lots of things for you to do and see. The Toledo Zoo is number one. Murphy's Jazz Club is across the street from the hotel. About two blocks away from the hotel, there is a River Cruise on the Sandpiper. It has luncheon and dinner cruises up and down the Maumee River. Since this is the Glass City, there is a new Glass Pavilion with lots of history on our glass industry. We have the Botanical Gardens which are a joy to wander through. If you have a car, there is the President Harrison compound a couple of hours away. And if you really want to get adventurous there is Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio. It was voted the Best Amusement Park in the world.

We will be having a silent auction. If you have any music memorabilia you would like to part with, email me at bam2411@bex.net, or call me at 419-380-8596.

We were disappointed that no one entered the New Member Contest. We have a few new members but no one took credit for them.

Refreshingly Yours,

Barb Meyers Chairman
Jean Emery Co-Chairman
Donna Gallaway Registration Chairman

A Four Freshmen Voyage

by Mike Rey Gascon

The Four Freshmen have always been a favorite singing group since three college friends and I did a pretty good imitation of them. Well, Cliff Sackett, who is retired in Arizona, calls and tells me of a jazz cruise going out of San Diego with the Four Freshman and the Stan Kenton Alumni Band. Now this is 2005, mind you. Unfortunately, Bob Deluca, who is retired in New Mexico, could not attend. But another school buddy of ours, Joe Rose, who is also a big Four Freshmen fan, came aboard. After this fantastic voyage is when I joined The Society. But before I forget, the fantastic voyage was complete because for those seven days at sea, we sat at the same table with Bob Flanigan, his wife Mary, and they introduced me to their friend Jan Holloway. Her being a widow and me a widower, we hit it off quite well. We even got together with the Flanigans again when the Freshmen were at the Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach, CA.

Well, when E&J Gallo Winery built the beautiful Gallo Art Center, I started bugging the C.E.O. to book the Four Freshmen. I gave him copies of all the info about the groups that have preceeded the original group of the 50's, 60's, and 70's - when I was growing up - and how they have continued with same beautiful sound of the original group. I guess the third year of bugging them was the charm as the C.E.O. called me and told me the Four Freshmen were booked for May 7, 2011. For a while, the Gallo people thought I was the Freshmen booking agent. I told them, "No," just a great great fan of their singing style that has lasted all these years and to repeat myself, with the same beautiful sound of the original group back in the 50's.

The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

(continued from page 5)

July 13-16, 2011

Gross Point Farms, MI

Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe 97 Kercheval Ave

Reservations: 313-882-5299, Show Times: TBA

July 23, 2011

Hackettstown, NJ

Lackland Center for The Performing Arts, 715 Grand Avenue

Box Office: 908-979-0900, Show Time: 8:00pm

July 27, 2011

Newport Beach, CA

Newport Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa, 900 Newport Center Drive

Tickets & Information: 949-759 5003, Show Time: 6:00pm

July 29, 2011

Las Vegas, NV

South Point Hotel & Casino, 9777 Las Vegas Blvd South

Hotel: 702-796-7111, Show Time: 7:30pm

July 30, 2011

Las Vegas, NV

South Point Hotel & Casino, 9777 Las Vegas Blvd South

Hotel: 702-796-7111, Show Time: 7:30pm

July 31, 2011

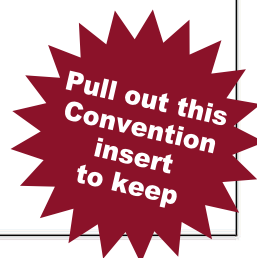
Las Vegas, NV

South Point Hotel & Casino, 9777 Las Vegas Blvd South

Hotel: 702-796-7111, Show Time: 7:30pm



Four Freshmen Society Convention 2011 Toledo Ohio September 8 - 10, 2011



It's all about the Four Freshmen and their music -- with Stan Kenton excitement in the mix!

If you've been to one or more of the preceding *twenty-three* Four Freshmen Conventions, you know what a great time everyone has. If you haven't been to one (and *why on earth* haven't you?), you really need to join us in Toledo and find out what all the buzz is about.

For us, the Convention is all about two things:

- 1) hearing the great music of the Four Freshmen performed by arguably the best FF group – ever, and
- 2) visiting with a few hundred like-minded fans.

We've planned this Convention to maximize both of those wishes.

Toledo is a great town for the FFS convention. It is said "Toledo's DNA is Jazz". We have lots to entertain you; in fact, one of the best jazz clubs around, Murphy's, is across the street from our convention hotel.



In addition to meeting and listening to the performing Freshmen, Bob Flanigan, Ross Barbour and more FF alumni will be here adding to the joy.

We're fortunate to have the Park Inn Hotel as our host hotel. The convention hotel, The Park Inn Hotel - located at 101 North Summit Street Toledo Ohio, 43604 - is ready to take your reservations for the Convention. The phone number is **1-800-670-7275**; just tell them you are with The Four Freshmen Society. Our special Convention rate is \$109.00 plus taxes, and there's free parking for hotel guests. As a bonus, the prices are good three days before the Convention and three days after.

Suites at the Park Inn are also available; one-bedroom suites at \$198.00 and two-bedroom suites at \$288.00.

Plan to arrive on Thursday, September 8th if you can. We'll have a number of Freshmen-related activities including the "113 Club" where you can load up on FF memorabilia and recordings, and the "FF Wannabe" room where we'll be singing FF charts together. If you've never heard scores of voices singing "It's a Blue World" using the FF charts led by Ross Barbour - well, it's got to be experienced!

Thursday evening is our traditional Jam Session - anchored by a professional jazz trio - where FreshFans and FF alumni can sit in on instruments and voices. The Jam Session is always great fun. Friday, there are other FF activities and a tour of the Toledo Art Museum (the tour won't conflict with any FFS sessions so you won't miss anything).

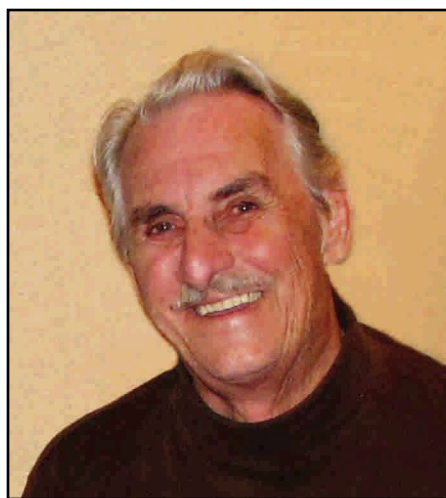
Friday night's affair will be a Four Freshmen concert with dinner music by Josh Silver, an extremely accomplished jazz pianist.

Saturday will have more FFS activities including the FFS Membership meeting where you'll get an update on the FFS and plans for the future. Saturday night, Josh will again provide our dinner music and will lead into the second Four Freshmen concert of the weekend, this time with the fabulous Toledo Jazz Orchestra.

It's going to be a wonderful 2+ days of fun with our favorite singing group. The hotel has graciously extended the low room rate three days before and three days after the convention so you can spend more quality time in Toledo. There's lots to do here including our world-class zoo!



Park Inn Hotel Toledo, Ohio



Ray Brown, former Four Freshmen member, will anchor the Thursday night Jam Session.

Visit with him in the "113 Club" at the Convention.

What should I do now?

Fill out and mail in your Registration Form found here in FreshNews. If you don't find the form, call us at 419-380-8596 and we'll get you another. Table assignments are made on a first come, first served basis, so you want to get your registration in pronto. If there are FreshFans you want to share your table with, be sure to put their names on your form, and get them to send in their form pronto, too. Remember that the rate changes June 1st, so be sure to take advantage of this early registration opportunity! If you prefer to register online, you can do that, too. Just go to www.ffa2011.com and follow the instructions. Got friends who aren't FFS members? They can come, too, by joining the FFS at a special convention rate. What a wonderful introduction to the Freshmen!

Call the Park Inn Hotel Reservation line at **800-670-7275**, be sure to tell them you're with the Four Freshmen Society, and make your hotel reservations. Do it now!

Plan your travel and be here in September!

The latest information is always on the FFS 2011 Convention website www.ffa2011.com so check there often for the latest news. Questions? Email us at barb@ffa2011.com or give us a ring at 419-380-8596.

See you September 8 -10th!



Barb Meyers
2011 FFS Convention Chair

2011 FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY CONVENTION
Toledo OH September 8 - 10, 2011

Send to: **Four Freshmen Society Convention 2011**
2411 Heathervalley Pl
Toledo OH 43614
(419) 380-8596

A. REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone # (_____) _____ email _____

B. TABLE ASSIGNMENT: Tables of 10. List names of those you want at your table. **Seating is arranged by postmark date of registration.** Be sure your whole table mails in on the same day.

C. HOTEL INFORMATION:

Have you made your Park Inn hotel reservation? ____ yes ____ no

D. COMMEMORATIVE SHIRTS:

I would like to order FFS Convention 2011 Commemorative Shirt(s) at **\$25 each** to be included with registration payment.

Men: (____ small) (____ med) (____ large) (____ XL) (____ XXL) (____ XXXL)

Ladies please order appropriate men's sizes

E. JAM SESSION: Will you play or sing at the **Thursday night Jam Session?** ____ yes (everyone invited!) ____ no

F. TOUR: Toledo Art Museum \$45 including lunch.

G. MENU SELECTIONS:

Will you need vegetarian meals? How many? Friday _____ Saturday _____

H. REGISTRATION FEE:

\$180 per person if registration is postmarked on or before June 1, 2011.

\$200 PER PERSON IF REGISTRATION IS POSTMARKED AFTER JUNE 1, 2011.

Cancellation policy: Full refund will be made prior to July 1. Between July 1 & July 31 refund minus \$25 processing fee.

NO REFUNDS can be made after July 31, 2011.

Payment by check is encouraged. Please make checks payable to **FFS Convention 2011.** Visa or Mastercard may be used.

I. PAYMENT SUMMARY:

REGISTRATION: (\$180 or \$200 after June 1) ____ people @ \$ _____ each = \$ _____

COMMEMORATIVE SHIRTS: ____ shirts @ \$25 each = \$ _____

TOUR: Toledo Art Museum ____ tours @ \$45 each = \$ _____

NEW MEMBERS ONLY - **FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY** Membership fee \$10 = \$ _____

(\$10 fee applies to couple OR single)

Couple ____ **Single** ____ **Name(s) if different from above** _____

CHECK NUMBER _____ **TOTAL = \$** _____

CHARGE _____ **VISA** _____ **MC** _____

Card number _____ **Expiration Date** _____

3 digit CVV number on back of card _____

Signature _____

Print Name as on Card _____

Card Holder's Address (include ZIPcode!) _____

2011 FFS CONVENTION REGISTRATION INFORMATION

(These details give further information in regard to the Registration Form)

A. REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Please provide all requested information, including both first and last names. Registration will be confirmed via email.

B. TABLE ASSIGNMENTS: Dinner seating will be at tables of ten. To ensure that you will receive assigned seating with others you want at your table, please provide all names. Encourage your preferred tablemates to mail in their registrations early and on the same day as seating will be arranged by date of postmark.

C. HOTEL INFORMATION: We recommended that you make your hotel reservation early. Rooms at the Park Inn Hotel will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Rates for the convention are guaranteed at \$109 plus tax per night for 2 double beds or a king, double occupancy. These rates will also be available for three days before and three days after the official convention dates of September 8-10 – subject to space availability. TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM, CALL Park Inn Hotel at **(800) 670-7275** and ask for Reservations. Be sure to use the Group Code: **Four Freshmen Society**

D. SHIRTS: Shirts run pretty true to size. The shirts are gray with the convention logo. Shirts are 100% cotton collar-less, button front shirts. There will be only a few shirts available at the convention. If you want a shirt, it's best to order it with your registration.

E. JAM SESSION: Thursday night's open jam session promises to be a great evening of jazz, and Society members are encouraged to participate. While a talented local trio will anchor the evening's festivities past and current Freshmen and convention attendees are most welcome (and encouraged) to join in.

F. TOUR: Toledo Art Museum \$45 including lunch

G. MENU SELECTION: Be sure to specify if you require vegetarian dinners. Entree choices will be made later.

H. REGISTRATION FEES: Early registration (prior to June 1) is encouraged and must be accompanied by payment. Every effort will be made to accommodate late registrations but priority dinner seating cannot be guaranteed.

I. PAYMENT SUMMARY: Please complete all information on the Registration Form and forward your payment as appropriate. While checks are preferred, you may charge your fees using Visa or Mastercard only; the 3-digit CVV security number on the back of the card must be included. ONLY members of the Four Freshmen Society may attend this convention; non-members will be allowed to join for a special fee of only \$10 (single or couple-please indicate) if submitted with a convention registration. Feel free to duplicate the registration form for your non-member friends who may be interested.

J. TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL: You may rent a car or you can reserve with Black & White Cab company via email to spotter@blackwhitecab.com or by phone at (419) 536-8294 or with Extreme Class Limos at (419) 867-8700.

HOTEL PARKING: Parking is free for hotel guests!

5 days after the disaster in Japan

by Yas and Michiko Ichiura, Tokyo, Japan

As most of you may know, the huge earthquake attacked northeastern Japan in the afternoon on March 11, 2011. Tokyo, where I live, is about 300 miles away from epicenter. Our home was shaken at the level that I never experienced. In a few minutes, a second one came, and Michiko and I went out of the house, though I never went out when previous hundreds of earthquakes in my life.

I started to call my family to confirm if they were fine. I was lucky and very soon talked to Michiko's mother, 84, living alone 20 minutes from our home, and confirmed she was fine. However, I could not talk to my son and daughter and their family by either stationary or mobile phone for a few hours. We worried if our children and grandkids were safe. I had learned e-mail worked much better, even in the chaos when telephone connections were out of order.

I sent e-mails to our children and their spouses' mobile phone addresses. We could confirm everyone was fine rather soon. Even though the earthquake was the biggest for me and some vases, frames, etc, fell down to the floor, nothing was damaged at my home, luckily. Later I found people living on higher floors in a building, had more damage, but not any physical injuries in the Tokyo area.

Soon after, many inquires started to arrive from overseas via Facebook, e-mail, and later by phone call. I was so pleased and encouraged by the messages from all over the world. As far as I know, nobody of Japanese FFS members and family were injured or suffered.

It is heart breaking to see the people suffering at the seriously damaged areas. They lost their family, house, job and everything. Many are currently starving. I am afraid tens of thousands people might have been killed not directly by the earthquake, but by the big tsunami followed.

We, in Tokyo, are in a far much better condition. Scheduled blackouts have started to share electricity. However, my area is not included, so we have electricity, water and gas supplied 24 hours as usual. We still can buy food and things, though some of them, such as bread, canned foods, are gone from the shops. There are also long lines at filling stations.

My biggest concern is the nuclear power station and the problems happening one by one that never stop so far. I really hope we can manage to cool the reactors down. Slight radioactivity was monitored even in Tokyo, which is about 160 miles away from the nuclear stations. But it is at much lower levels than an X-ray stomach inspection, so TV and radio say. I really hope that nuclear power station problem will be solved soon.

Continued on page 9

Midland-Odessa Texas

by Barb and Mel Meyers

WOW! What a night! The concert was in the Commemorative Air Museum, simply put, it was an airplane hanger. The hanger was surrounded by vintage airplanes. In the center were tables and chairs for about 1,000 people. But, when the lights went down and The Four Freshmen walked on the stage in front of the Midland-Odessa Symphony Orchestra it was pure elegance. If you think you have heard the best of the Freshmen, wait until you hear them sing "Snowfall," "Laura," and, "It's a Blue World" with a full symphonic orchestra to back them up. They had the audience in the palm of their hand all evening. The Midland-Odessa Communities are building a state-of-the-art performing center that will cost 81 million dollars (yes, 81 million dollars). It will be open in September. We had a chance to tour it with hard hats and goggles, thanks to our friend who lives there and is quite active in the Symphony Guild. We are quite sure the Freshmen are on the A list. And, when they are invited back to sing there, you can be sure we will be in the audience.

An Addition to the article

by Paul Daniggelis, El Paso, Texas

The good news is when the music director put aside his baton and the Freshmen performed as they do so well. Old reliable standards were foremost among the programming beginning with the marvelous "Poinciana." Each of the guys had their moments. But, I must tell you that I have not heard Vince Johnson do his veejing thing in a long time. Okay, go ahead and call it scat if you want. But scat, defined, is the vocalization of nonsense syllables. Vince does so much more than that, that it deserves it's own term, named for Vince. When a guy can harmonize with the instruments by scatting, whistling, humming or "eeeeeeeeee-ing" the way Lionel Hampton used to do, that deserves a better definition.

I had not heard the guys do "Snowfall" before - a lovely blue ballad with complementary blue lighting. "Nancy" is a special sentimental number when one considers that it was written by loud-mouth comedian, Phil Silvers. Curtis Calderon's horn work is just plain phenomenal. Alas, I did not hear enough of Bob Ferreira's plaintive mellow voice this night. I was also hoping to hear Brian do his "In Session" arrangement of "My One and Only Love," and I'm afraid his solo parts did not come across too well in that voluminous cavern. I hadn't realized how high Brian's voice could get until the "In Session" album. When the guys ended the night with "Surfer Girl," I was reminded of the last time I heard the Freshmen do that number. I thought o1' Flanagan was going to pop a vocal chord.

A bonus treat of the evening: The Freshmen's new President, Mel Myers and his charming wife Barbara were in town visiting an old friend. There they were manning the CD and DVD table. When Mel was living in Tucson, he helped me acquire a "Group 18 Live in Concert" video which was greatly appreciated. Thanks, Mel, for always being there and it was a pleasure meeting you and your wife.

Anytime I get to hear the Freshmen live is a tremendous pleasure — regardless of the venue. That said, I look forward to the next meeting, but age is creeping up on these old bones. I am pleased to be able to say that a long ago wish has come true. I have grown old while the Freshmen remain young and vibrant.

Anatomy of An FFS Convention Thursday evening “Jam Session”

by Al Skane, Boston, MA

Several years ago, more and more FFSers started arriving on Thursdays for our annual Friday/Saturday conventions because frankly we weren't getting enough - of the Freshmen I mean. Not just the Four Freshmen, mind you, but the entire FFS experience. At some point a few creative individuals came up with the idea of scheduling some Thursday activities to reduce the number of FFSers going out that night, getting lubed and ending up in the next morning's newspapers (please no emails, it's disgusting how well behaved we FFSers are).

And so the idea of an Open Mike session on Thursday night with a little help from our “Friends” was born. This has turned out to be a big hit with audiences gradually growing to rival the size of our Friday and Saturday dinner shows. Meanwhile, more and more FFSers are now arriving on Wednesday. Commensurately, the number of Thursday night performers and the entertainment value of their performances has also been on the rise (or so it seems) such that this year we have more to talk about than ever - yet not nearly enough room in which to do it.

In this context, I have been asked to report on the FFS Convention 2010 Thursday Night Jam Session. Delighted as I am to be asked, I am operating under a serious handicap - I wasn't asked to write about it until after the Jam Session was over and the list of participating names had been abandoned and lost. So if I leave out any epiphanies or metamorphoses, please forgive me for there were many and they were coming quickly. If I've missed one of yours, please email me (skane@alum.mit.edu) with your id for the record. I'm already working on an addendum for next quarter's Fresh News.

Before describing Thursday's festivities, just a word on three of our dear long-time friends who couldn't be with us this year - Ross and Sue Barbour and Ray Brown. We were all very much aware of their absence throughout the weekend, which had us all making our “get one for the Gipper” efforts, determined to make the weekend a success in their honor and we did. Ross, Sue and Ray, our prayers and well wishes continue to go out to you.

Now back to the embarrassment of riches present on Thursday night.

For a collection of amateurs, semi pros, and anonymous and not so anonymous professionals, I thought we did remarkably well and from the audience attendance (right to the end) and their enthusiastic responses, it's safe to say they did too. Throughout the evening there were at least 25 performers on stage at one time or another from at least 5 different countries performing 30 to 40 different numbers. Their selections of music were impeccable

coming from a who's who of composers and arrangers such as: the Gershwins brothers, Rogers and Hart, Bobby Troup, Peggy Lee, George Shearing, Andre Previn, Eubie Blake, Harold Arlen, and Johnny Mercer to name a few. Not too shabby indeed.

The instrumental quartet providing accompaniment was nothing short of spectacular being led on the piano by Professor Thomas Korth, a former Chairman of the Dept. of Music at Howard University and an internationally renowned pianist. WHO KNEW? I had brought sheet music with me for my song, but all he needed was the song's name and my chosen key. With the professor's accompaniment, my song practically sang itself. All I had to do was work my diaphragm in and out.

Specific highlights included: Yas was again a force on trombone “*Fly me to the Moon*.” Ron Kalina of Palmdale, CA on the harmonica played a great dueling banjos-like sequence with Freshman Curtis Calderon on trumpet. Ann Smith of Texas played two intriguing piano arrangements of Kaper and Webster's “*Invitation*” - one by George Shearing, the other by Andre Previn. Two former Freshmen, Rod Henley on piano and Garry Lee Rosenberg on trombone, graced us with individual numbers. It was great to see and hear them. Their magic lives on. Another Frosh quartet, the Sergios, debuted - this time with international credentials (Yas from Japan, Sergio Stephani from Italy, Maurice Burne from Canada via Ireland, and Bob Lanman from the US with Bill Martin from the US on piano) - singing Freshmen Favorites “*Love Lost*” and “*Poinciana*.” Nice going guys!

And finally, the list of highlights would not be complete without a big tip of the hat to our very talented lady performers this year: Smart, perky, high energy, sexy - they really brightened up our parade and provided a strong finish to the evening. Encore, encore. Hopefully, more on this later.

I can't wait till next year in Toledo. See you all in 2011.

Peace, Justice, and 4F Harmony for All.

“Middle age is when you're faced with two temptations and you choose the one that will get you home by nine o'clock.”

Ronald Reagan, U.S. president

NEEDED: A Convention Site and Chairman to host the 2012 Convention

We are currently looking for someone to step forward and offer to host the 2012 FFS Convention.. If you are interested, contact Jack Morrison at his email address, jwmorr001@aol.com Jack, along with Neil Lantz, Bruce Camlin and Gil Peterson, are members of the Convention Site Committee.

1. The City — Some of the things we consider when choosing a Convention Site are:

- a) Location- is it easily accessible by plane or car?
- b) Will the hotel charge reasonable room and meal rates so as to be affordable to those on fixed retirement incomes?
- c) Does the city offer some interesting things to see and do?
- d) We try to visit different areas of the country whenever possible.

2. The Host (Chairman) — It takes someone who has the time and is able to organize and carry out the many jobs and details. Chairman must have a working committee of 5-7 local people assisting him in carrying out all the planning and tasks. Once at the convention there will be plenty of volunteers to help. It is a very time consuming job but a very rewarding experience as well.

If interested, please request a convention planning guide which will help one get a better feel of the job and commitment. Email at the address shown above anytime or you can call Jack at 616-949-6339 after April 4th. All inquiries should be made by April 30th.

5 days after the disaster in Japan *Continued from page 5*

Michiko and I stay all day in the living room and try to use as little energy as possible. We walk or riding bicycle instead of driving when we need to go outside. This seems to be the only thing we can do to even slightly help for those who are suffering seriously. Consequently, Michiko and I have had more quarrels because we're staying together almost 24 hours a day.

Michiko and I personally thank you so much for your inquiries as well as the kind and encouraging words from all over the world. I am sorry to those I had no time to answer. We also thank so many countries and organizations for helping us with support in many ways.

I'm sure Japan will overcome and recover by supporting each other and the support from all over the world, though I don't know how long it will take.

FN APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2011

Editor Trivia...

By Tom Purvis, FFS Ohio

I am probably overdue for some editor type contributions to Fresh News, so here are some things that I have accumulated which may be of some interest.

I read recently that arts and entertainment spending is now at a 12 year low! Some very interesting information in an article in the Los Angeles Times by Mike Boehm. Someone has developed what is identified as the "National Arts index" which attempts to define just how the arts and entertainment business has been doing...and the news is not good. The index for 2009 was 97.7, the

lowest in about 12 years. In the commercial arts, the decline includes the collapse of the recording industry and much smaller audiences for pop concerts and touring Broadway type productions. Musical instrument sales have fallen in seven of the last ten years. It seems that we, the demographic that no one really cares about, are aging and not "boogieing" as much as we used to do and thus contributing to these declines. I hope that I am wrong but I fear that the end of good music and entertainment may



be in sight! When we go, it goes... Did you happen to see the recent Grammy awards? Could hardly understand a word. A frame of reference...the "Compact Disc-CD" has only been around since 1983 and the first Freshmen CD was not released until some 10-12 years later. In 2006 some 555 million were sold, but in 2010 only 240 million were sold. Concert attendance during the same period remained essentially flat at about 36-38 million.

Now for the better news...our long treasured vinyl albums are making a return! LP sales in 2009 increased by 33% compared to a year earlier and the highest vinyl sales since 1991. It seems that many folks, including me, enjoy the music from vinyl as they offer a quality of tone that is not always noted on CD's. Most offerings today are obviously Rock & Roll, but represent a new beginning. An example, Terry Stewart, the President of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum owns over 250,000 vinyl records. There is now a vinyl record company in Cleveland, Gotta Groove Records, pressing their first album in August 2009. Cleveland also hosts four stores devoted significantly to vinyl, at one time there were a couple of large outlets in Toledo but I believe now gone. For a time it was nearly impossible to find a good record player but now they are pretty easy to find and are of good quality.

In another vein...the famous Freshmen movie appearance in "Rich Young and Pretty" is now available on DVD from Critics Choice. It is item #LCWBA022758 and offered for \$23.96 plus shipping. It may be ordered via www.ccvideo.com or by phone @ 800-367-7765. This film was produced in 1951! I look forward to seeing you in Toledo.

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The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Music Mart - Price List 2010

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	SOLD OUT	_____
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	+\$5.00	_____
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	_____
42.* Atlanta DVDs	\$25	_____

Overseas add \$5.00 for most items

GRAND TOTAL \$_____

*Available to Members ONLY

FN APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2011

MUSIC MART - Order Summary

Please Complete: then 1) mail to FFS Music Mart
Bob Lininger, Director
PO Box 11475
Pittsburgh, PA 15238-9998
412-781-5268
or 2) fax
or 3) call 412-781-5267 for info
or 4) email **boblininger@hotmail.com**

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 ____/____/____ CVV # (on back of card) _____

Print Name as it appears on card _____

Authorized Signature _____

.....

SHIPPING ADDRESS:

Name _____

Number/Street/Apt _____

City _____

State or Province _____

Country _____

10 Digit Phone _____

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Music Mart Spring Sale!

While supplies last • Members only
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Live in Vegas, CD

Remembering Ken

Live in the New Millenium

Still Fresh

50 Years Fresh, CD

Voices in Standards

Freshmas!

The Star Spangled Banner

Several hours of exceptional music
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**One of those CDs on the list
was named wrong.
I did it, and I was wrong.**

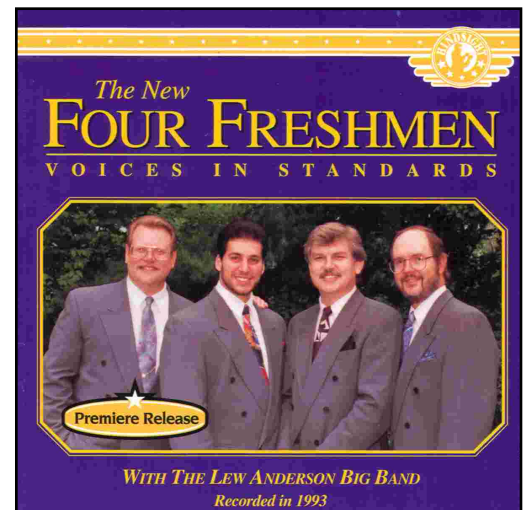
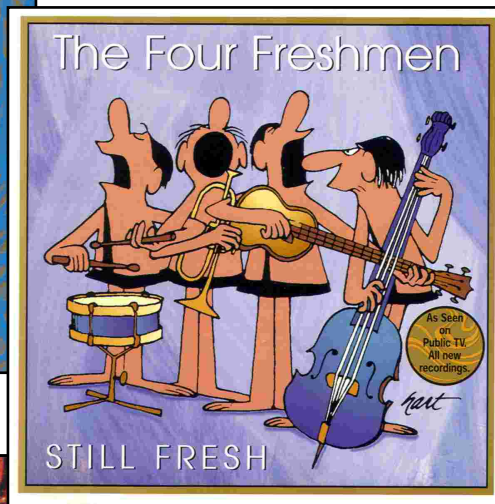
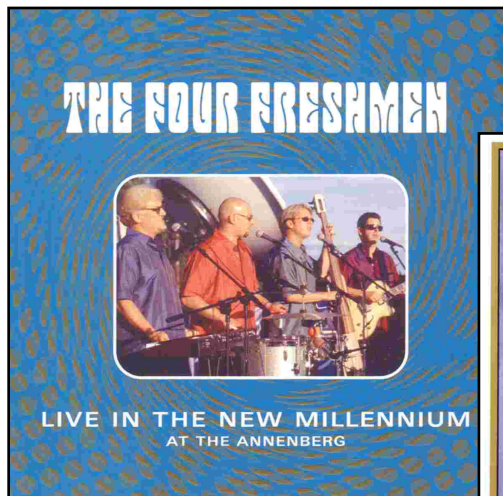
"Remembering Ken" is not a memorial service for Ken Albers at all. It is a Freshmen concert someone recorded live in Ashland, Kentucky on August 15, 1967. It is Bob, Bill, Ross, and Ken. There's music, comedy, Leroy and applause. Of course, Ken was there doing his flawless thing on trumpet, flugelhorn, mellophone and bass viol... Oh, and he sang the bottom part with the quartet, too.

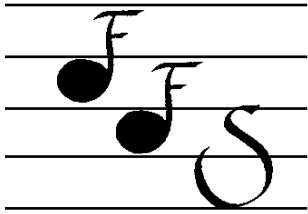
Ken was a good friend and a great talent. This CD was released shortly after Ken died. That's why the title.

But, gee! There's so much in this one. I'll bet some of you missed our "in person" treatment of "*Strangers in the Night*," "*Work That Swings*," and "*Spring Isn't Spring*." Oh, and Bob stops the show with his, "*What! Now? My Love?*" you've got to hear it to believe it!

Sue and I will see you September!

Later,
Ross





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Visit our Website: www.fourfreshmensociety.com

HOLY TOLEDO!

The Park Inn is ready to accept your room reservations for The 2011 Four Freshmen Convention. The phone number is 1-800-670-7275. Just mention the Four Freshmen Society.

Hope to see you in Toledo, Ohio on September 8, 9 and 10, 2011.
It's always about The Four Freshmen and their music.
We will add fun and friendship.

Barbara Meyers,
Chairman

The Art Tatum Memorial which is located a couple of blocks from the Park Inn Hotel, Toledo, Ohio. It's within walking distance from the hotel - just a few minutes walk and is rather impressive.
He attended Scott High School in Toledo.

