

Fresh News

Volume 28, No. 2

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2014

Group 23's 1st Release

THE **FOUR FRESHMEN** **LIVE** AT THE FRANKLIN THEATRE





TAMPA'S WAITING FOR YOU!

We've ordered lots of sunshine and good times for October 2, 3, 4, 2014. We're only six months from "C" Day (Convention). Have you registered? ***We anxiously await your presence!***

Bob & Candi Suhrheinrich

??

NEW FOR 2014

FOUR FRESHMEN TRIVIA

Thursday afternoon
Don't miss the fun and prizes!!!

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**ALSO NEW FOR 2014
(VERY POPULAR IN FLORIDA)**

50/50 Raffle

Half of proceeds collected will be paid to one lucky winner and the other half goes to the Society. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.



Tampa Resident and
Society Member



**Dan
McMillion**

and his Jazz Orchestra (High Octane) will back the Four Freshmen on Friday night. Dan and a

smaller group will provide dinner music on Friday and Saturday nights as well as at Thursday's Jam Session. Our own Bob Flanigan said of Dan, "....you are the only trumpet player I have ever heard who could come close to Maynard Ferguson." Our own Wayne Corey (FFS-Wisconsin) said, "I remember the first time I heard Dan McMillion – a Thursday at our FFS Convention Jam Session. The best of times! Great music, great friends!"

Volunteers are always welcomed and needed at the convention. If you have a few spare hours and would like to lend a hand, let us know.

813-835-5658 or
csawyer5@msn.com

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Are there any sweethearts celebrating an anniversary around convention time? If so, please let us know. We want to celebrate with you!



FYI – TOUR #2 – YACHT STARSHIP

We have more than one bus load of members ready to head out for a beautiful lunch on Tampa Bay waters. There's still space available on both tours. Sign up today on the 2014 Convention Registration Form!



SOUVENIR SHIRTS

If you really want to buy a shirt, we recommend you order it before the convention, as we will have very few available. This year's shirts can be ordered in ladies' and men's sizes and in four colors: Maui Blue (aqua), Hibiscus (coral), Pink, and Lime Green.



2014 FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY CONVENTION

Tampa, Florida

October 2-4, 2014

Send form to: Bob & Candi Suhrheinrich

3325 Bayshore Boulevard #F15

Tampa, FL 33629

REGISTRATION: Read registration information/details on Fresh News
issue before filling out this form.**Questions:** Call (813) 835-5658

Names(s): _____ (First) _____ (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Last)
 Address: _____ Telephone # _____
 Address 2: _____ Email Address: _____
 City, State, Zip Code _____

COMMEMORATIVE SHIRTS: \$33 ea/add \$3 for XXL or XXXL; enter number of shirts per gender, size, and color (4 choices)

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|----------|--------|--------|---------|----------|---------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------|
| MEN | ___SM | ___MED | ___LG | ___XLG | ___XXLG | ___XXXLG | | ___MAUI BLUE | ___HIBISCUS | ___LIGHT PINK | ___LIME |
| WOMEN | ___X-SM | ___SMALL | ___MED | ___LG | ___XL | ___XXL | ___XXXL | ___MAUI BLUE | ___HIBISCUS | ___LIGHT PINK | ___LIME |
| (SIZE) | 2 | 4/6 | 8/10 | 12/14 | 16/18 | 20/22 | 24/26 | | | | |
| (BUST SIZE) | 32-34 | 35-36 | 37-38 | 39-41 | 42-44 | 45-47 | 48-51 | | | | |

JAM SESSION: Plan to perform at Thursday's Jam Session? ___ Yes ___ No

Since the Jam Session time is limited, we will need your song, key, and instrument so we can be ready for you.

Song _____ Key _____ Instrument _____

MENU VARIATIONS: How many? Friday ___ Saturday ___ Vegetarian ___ Other (Explain) _____**HOTEL REGISTRATION:** Have you made your Doubletree Tampa Airport Westshore reservations? ___ Yes ___ No **CALL 800-222-8733**

REGISTRATION FEES: \$185 per person if registration is postmarked **ON or BEFORE July 1, 2014**; \$205 per person if registration is postmarked **AFTER July 1, 2014**. You may **cancel** your registration and receive a full refund if you do so **BEFORE August 1, 2014**. Cancellations **BETWEEN August 1 and August 31** are subject to a **\$25** per person processing fee. **NO REFUNDS AFTER AUGUST 31, 2014.**

TABLE SEATING @TABLES FOR 10: List names of those you want at your table. **SEATING IS ARRANGED BY REGISTRATION POSTMARK DATE.**

Be sure your entire group mails in on the same day. (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____ (4) _____
 (5) _____ (6) _____ (7) _____ (8) _____ (9) _____ (10) _____

TOURS: Tour #1 Tampa City Tour with lunch on your own \$39; Tour #2 Tampa City Tour with lunch on the Yacht Starship \$79**PAYMENT SUMMARY:****REGISTRATION FEE:** \$185 OR \$205 **AFTER** July 1, 2014 # _____ people @ \$ _____ each \$ _____

Commemorative Shirts: # _____ shirts @ \$33 or \$36 each \$ _____

1) _____ # for City Tour/lunch on your own (\$39); 2) _____ # City Tour/lunch on Yacht Starship (\$79) \$ _____

NEW MEMBERS ONLY: FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY Membership Fee \$10. Fee applies to couple or singl \$ _____
 _____ Couple _____ Single Name(s) if different from above _____

TOTAL

\$

PAYMENT BY CHECK IS ENCOURAGED: Please make checks payable to **FFS Convention 2014** Check No. _____Or, pay by Credit Card: Visa or Mastercard may be used. **CHARGE MY:** VISA _____ MASTERCARD _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ 3 digit CVCC no. on back of card _____

Signature _____ Print Name as on Card _____

Card Holder's Address (include Zip Code) _____

REMEMBER: You are always welcome to REGISTER ON LINE BEGINNING FEBRUARY 1, 2014. Please go to our website: www.ffs2014.com

2014 FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY
CONVENTION REGISTRATION INFORMATION
(This information gives further details regarding the Registration Form)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Registration begins February 1, 2014. You may register online at www.ffa.2014.com or register by mail and pay by check or credit card using the form on the following page. Please provide all requested information, including first and last names (for name badges too).

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 postmark date or online registration date.**

HOTEL INFORMATION: We recommend you make your hotel reservations early. Rooms at the Doubletree Tampa Airport Westshore will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Rates for the convention are guaranteed at \$109 plus tax per night for 2 queen beds or a king size. These rates will also be available for 3 days before and 3 days after the official convention dates of October 2, 3, and 4, 2014.

TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM: Call Doubletree Reservations at 800-222-8733. Be sure to use the group code FFS (Four Freshmen Society).

COMMEMORATIVE SHIRTS: The shirts are collared, polo style, with our new 2014 convention logo. They are silk-touch, 65% polyester, 35% cotton. First time ever, we are offering 4 different colors, representative of the beautiful state of Florida. They are Maui Blue (aqua), Hibiscus (coral), Light Pink, and Lime. There will only be a few shirts available at the convention. You are encouraged to order with your registration.

JAM SESSION: Thursday night's open jam session promises to be a great evening of jazz. While a talented local jazz quartet will anchor the evening's festivities, past and current Freshmen and convention attendees are welcomed and encouraged to participate. Please indicate your song, key, and instrument on the registration form so our quartet will be prepared to back up your song.

TOURS: Tour #1 embarks at 9:30 a.m. on Friday for a narrative city tour, admission and docent tours of the Henry Plant Museum and Ybor City State Museum. Lunch will be on your own while in Ybor City. Buses will return to the hotel at 1:30 p.m. Maximum number of guests: 100. Tour #2 embarks at 10:15 a.m. on Friday for a narrative city tour of Tampa's Bayshore Boulevard, the University of Tampa, and Ybor City by motor coach. At 11:30, we'll go aboard the Yacht Starship for a 3 course lunch and narrated tour of the Harbor. Buses return to the hotel at 2:15 p.m. Maximum number of guests: 145. Because guest numbers are limited, you are encouraged to select a tour on your registration form.

MENU VARIATIONS: Please specify if you require vegetarian or other specifics for your 2 evening meals.

REGISTRATION FEES: Early registration, prior to July 1, is encouraged and must be accompanied by payment. The earlier you register, the better your seat. Every effort will be made to accommodate late registrations, but priority dinner seating cannot be guaranteed.

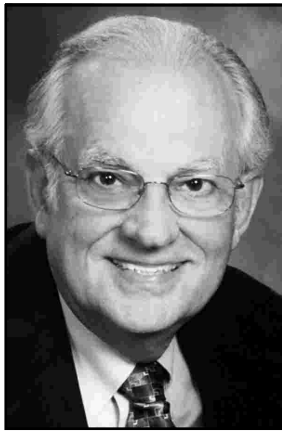
PAYMENT SUMMARY: Please complete all information on the Registration Form and forward your payment. While checks are preferred, fees may be charged to VISA or MasterCard only. The 3 digit CVCC security number on the back of the card must be included. ONLY members of the Four Freshmen Society may attend 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 in attending.

TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL: The Doubletree Tampa Airport Westshore offers a shuttle from the Tampa International Airport by calling (813) 879-4800 – **AFTER YOU SECURE YOUR LUGGAGE.** Rental cars and taxi service are also available at the airport. The Doubletree Tampa Airport Westshore will also provide free round trip transportation within a 3 mile radius of the hotel to nearby shopping centers, theatres, restaurants, etc.

HOTEL PARKING: Parking is free for hotel guests **with in and out privileges.**

Go to this web address:
<http://tinyurl.com/lrbrayr>

Our President, **Neil Lantz** 66 Years & Counting



For this issue, I had hoped to write about having heard Bob, Brian, Curtis, and Stein in a recent performance. Unfortunately, family travel scheduling, local commitments, and the March deadline for publication made it impossible for Sara Lou and me to have yet heard the new group in person as of this writing, March 15. However, we're certainly enjoying their new CD release, *Live At The Franklin Theatre*. And by the time you read this, we'll have enjoyed Group #23 in concert at the Zionsville, Indiana Performing Arts Center and the next night at the Red Skelton Performing Arts Center in Vincennes, Indiana. Of course, we're also keeping up to speed on the positive reviews we've caught on fourfreshmen@yahoogroups.com.

I encourage you to check out the guys' tour schedule for 2014 on our official site, fourfreshmensociety.com. The Four Freshmen are excited about the new group, and they are performing coast to coast over the next several months; and I know you'll enjoy hearing them. They'd love to see you at a concert in your area and, hopefully, at the 2014 FFS Convention in Tampa, Oct. 2-4. Bob and Candi Suhrheinrich, Convention Co-chairs, are working hard to make the 2014 gathering another great event in the Society's long history of successful (and fun!) conventions. After the record winter that many of us have endured, Tampa sounds great... hope to see you there.

Fresh News is published quarterly © 2014, all rights reserved, celebrating THE FOUR FRESHMEN, the best vocal/instrumental quartet in the world. Publication does not imply approval of FFS corporate directors or trustees. Each author is responsible for his/her article.

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:

Barb Meyers, bam2411@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.

March 27, 2014 **Zionsville, IN**
Zionsville Performing Arts Center, 1000 Mulberry St.
Show time: TBA Tickets: 317-873-3355

March 28, 2014 **Vincennes, IN**
Red Skelton Performing Arts Center, Vincennes University
1002 North First St. Show time: 7:30p
Tickets: 812-888-4039

April 24, 2014 **Bethesda MD**
Bethesda Blues and Jazz, 7719 Wisconsin Ave.
Show time: 7:30p, doors open at 5:30p for dinner
Reservations: 240-330-4500 Mon-Fri 12-8pm

April 25, 2014 **Glen Allen, VA**
Cultural Arts Center at Glenn Allen, 2880 Mountain Rd.
Show time: 8:30p Tickets: 804-261-2787

April 26, 2014 **Dover, DE**
Schwartz Center for the Arts, 226 South State St.
Show time: 7:00p Tickets: 302-678-5152

April 27, 2014 **Lebanon, PA**
Lebanon Senior High School, 1000 South 8th St.
Show time: 3:00p Tickets: www.lccca.net

May 8, 2014 **Boston MA**
Scullers Jazz Club, 400 Soldiers Field Rd.
Show time: 8:00p Tickets: 617 562 4111

May 24, 2014 **Carmel By The Sea, CA**
Sunset Center Theater for the Arts, San Carols St. at Ninth Ave.
Show time: 8:00p Tickets: 831-620-2048

May 28, 2014 **New Zealand**
Expression Art Centre - Upper Hutt Wellington,
836 Fergusson Dr, Upper Hutt
Phone: +64 (4) 527-2168

May 29, 2014 **New Zealand**
The Globe Theatre - Palmerston North, 312 Main St., Palmerton North 4410
Phone: +64 (6) 351-4409

May 30, 2014 **New Zealand**
The Century Theatre - Napier, MTG Hawke's Bay,
Tai Ahuriri, 1 Tennyson St., Napier 4110
Phone: (06) 835-7781

June 28, 2014 **Arlington Heights, IL**
Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, 111 W. Campbell St.
Show time: 7:00p
Tickets: 847-577-2121 (Tickets go on sale March 2014)

July 19, 2014 **Upland, CA**
Highlander Auditorium, 850 N San Antonio Ave.
Show time: 7:30p Tickets: TBA

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Joel Rothman 949-759-5003
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347 Magnolia Drive
Hamilton, ON L9C 6N6
905-575-1530
Email: moeburn@yahoo.ca

FFS New Member/or Renewal Form

Name _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

(9 digit zip please)

Telephone # _____

Fax # _____

E-mail _____

New Member Fee: \$32 Single or Couple (worldwide)

All Renewals: One Year \$22

Two or more years \$17 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 online at www.fourfreshmensociety.com/dues

New Members

Patricia Adler, San Clemente, CA
Gil Benson, Ridgeland, SC
Frank Bort, St. Petersburg, FL
Dan Corrado, Pittsburgh, PA
Shirley Douglas, Palo Alto, CA
Dawson & Pat Durrett, Clarksville, TN
Willard Goode, Gulfport, FL
Richard & Mary Hicks,
Fredericksburg, VA
Patrick & Karen Neidig, Tampa, FL
Lawrence & Annell O'Donnell,
Houston, TX
Brian Ramsey, San Francisco, CA

Gail & Tim Rondonanski,
Oak Grove, MO
Dick & Joan Schwertle, Westlake, OH
Peter Stanger & Carol Sutton,
Vancouver, BC
Chuck & Ginni Swenson,
Homosassa, FL
Steve Tsagaris, Largo, FL
Rich Vanucci, Castro Valley, CA
Gayle Yimoyings, Seminole, FL
Marty Zusman & Karen Cagen,
Mishawaka, IN

Contributors

Tony Leone, Washington, PA

Morris Turkelson, Aurora, CO

My Gene Puerling Story

by Paul Halac, FFS, Estes Park, CO

Back in the 90s, I was deeply involved in converting all my favorite LPs to CD even though the technology was fairly new. I was convinced that record companies would never get around to releasing all my favorites, . . . the Four Freshmen, the Hi-Lo's, the Axidentals, etc. So, I studied the subject, bought the necessary equipment and computer software and set out to convert all my albums. In those early days, it sometimes took a few solid weeks of work to remove the pops and clicks inherent in a single LP record album. Today, with improved software, I can do an album in as little as two hours.

After I finished all the Four Freshmen albums (I have my priorities), I went to work on the Hi-Lo's, transferring every album of theirs as well. At the time, this conversion process was all-consuming to me. Along the way I became acquainted with Frank D'Rone and still burn all the CDs his widow (Joan) sells on the Internet. Frank died of cancer this past fall but Joan still runs his website. Turns out that Frank knew Gene Puerling and, in fact, sat in for a few of the Singers Unlimited commercial gigs in Chicago replacing Len Dressler (another old Chicagoan) who sang bass for the SU. The SU were formed by Puerling strictly to sing commercials and "make a living".

So, Frank gave me Gene's address and I sent copies of all my Hi-Lo's CDs to Gene. Thus, we struck up an email friendship. Actually, back then it was more snail mail because the Internet was still a fairly new thing. Anyway, one LP I never had in stereo was the Hi-Lo's, *This Time It's Love*. Gene sent me his only copy which I promptly converted. It was a labor of love and took almost a month but this was for "the man." In all this time we only communicated my email and snail mail since he lived near San Francisco and I was in Chicago and cell phones were just evolving.

Then one New Year's morning (I think 1999), Kris (my wife) answered the phone and brought it to me at my computer. She said, "It's Gene," to which I replied, "Gene who?" Gene Puerling! I gulped and answered the phone. He was so gracious and we chatted for almost 20 minutes (which seemed like two to me). Here was a world renowned singer/arranger who was so down to earth and friendly. He really reminded me of Ross Barbour with the same humble demeanor. He apologized for calling on New Years Day. The reason was to let me know that the next day I would probably get a call from a Sony producer and he didn't want it to be a surprise. Sony was about to release a CD of the Hi-Lo's album called *Love Nest*, but over the years their master tape had deteriorated (they take such great care, don't they)

they) so that two of the 12 tunes were non-recoverable. The two songs were *My Romance* and *Love Nest* (the album title song). They did still have the monaural tape of the album so Gene suggested they contact me because of the stereo CD I had produced. To me it was a great honor that he thought my work to be that good.

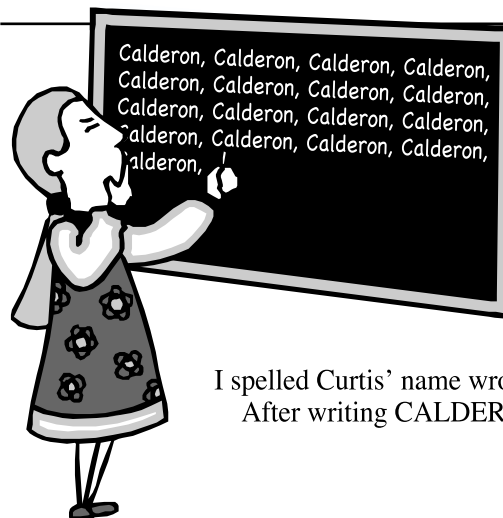
Gene told me that I should not give it away but I should be compensated for my efforts. That's the reason he called on a holiday. Sure enough, the next morning I got a call from some middle management Sony BS-er. We discussed the same issue about the missing two tracks in stereo. However, as soon as I mentioned that Gene told me to expect some compensation, this guy immediately cut me off and said he would get back to me on it. Of course, he never called back, just what I would expect from a so called "recording executive." When I told Gene about it, he laughed and said, "Welcome to the recording industry."

As you might expect, a month later that CD was released and I bought it even though I already had my own converted version since I wanted to compare the two. As I read the liner notes on the back, there was an asterisk by the song *Love Nest*, mentioned above and a note that described why that track was only mono. Since *My Romance* was all a cappella, they didn't mention that it was also in mono but assumed the listener wouldn't notice. I did right away, of course. Can you believe it? Hell, I would have been happy to just have my name mentioned in the liner notes but that arrogant so-and-so wasn't about to pay out any money (so he thought) to have a fully complete stereo album. He was probably worried it would be taken out of his commission. If you ever see it on the CD racks in stores, read the back side and you will see what I'm talking about. It's on a double album CD, paired with another Hi-Lo's gem, *All Over the Place*.

Anyway, that's my Gene Puerling story. We continued emailing infrequently over the following years until he passed away on March 25, 2008, just three plus years before our dear friend, Ross. The more I listen to his arrangements, the more I appreciate what he did. I'm convinced that many of the chords he chose were meant to express the words he was singing. He didn't follow any rules while arranging at the piano. He just played what sounded right to him. And, he really didn't play the piano, just sat down and dinked at it, like the rest of us.

I feel so lucky to have known both Gene and Ross Barbour who were personal heroes of mine. I expect they're both leading some heavenly vocal group and having a great time doing it.

For those who are interested, there is a beautiful tribute to Gene at this link.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNVZhg0Qx80>



MEA CULPA

I spelled Curtis' name wrong on page two of the last issue.
After writing CALDERON on the blackboard 100 times
I finally have it.

Sorry,
Barb

The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Music Mart Price List 2014

| Title | Cost | Total |
|---|---------|-------|
| 5 Saxes/5 Guitars | \$15 | _____ |
| 5 Trombones /5 Trumpets | \$15 | _____ |
| 50 Years Fresh | \$15 | _____ |
| Blue World | \$15 | _____ |
| Capitol Collectors Series | \$15 | _____ |
| * Culmination, G. Stegeman | \$15 | _____ |
| Faux Freshmen - Scratchin' the Surface | \$10 | _____ |
| Faux Freshmen - Season of the Heart | \$10 | _____ |
| First Affair/Voices in Fun | \$15 | _____ |
| Fresh | \$15 | _____ |
| Freshmas | \$15 | _____ |
| Freshmen Year/Voices in Latin | \$15 | _____ |
| Golden Anniversary | \$15 | _____ |
| Graduation Day | \$15 | _____ |
| Graduation Day - Double CD | \$15 | _____ |
| In Session | \$15 | _____ |
| Jazz Factory | \$15 | _____ |
| Live at Butler University | \$15 | _____ |
| Live at Clearwater | \$15 | _____ |
| Ken Albers Arrangements | \$28.50 | _____ |
| * Live at Penn State | \$15 | _____ |
| Live at Franklin | \$20 | _____ |
| Live From Las Vegas CD | \$15 | _____ |
| Live From Las Vegas DVD | \$20 | _____ |
| Live from Las Vegas DVD & CD | \$30 | _____ |
| Live in Holland | \$15 | _____ |
| Live in the New Millennium | \$15 | _____ |
| Live Trombones | \$15 | _____ |
| Lost Soul - Curtis Calderon | \$15 | _____ |
| Love Songs | \$20 | _____ |
| More 5 Trombones/In Person V2 | \$15 | _____ |
| Now You Know (book) | \$100 | _____ |
| overseas book order | \$120 | _____ |
| Penn State | \$15 | _____ |
| * Remembering Ken | \$15 | _____ |
| * Return to Romance/Live in Manchester | \$15 | _____ |
| Road Shows | \$15 | _____ |
| * Road to Portsmouth | \$15 | _____ |
| Snowfall | \$15 | _____ |
| The Liberty Years | \$15 | _____ |
| * Through the Years | \$15 | _____ |
| Voices in Brass/In Person V1 | \$15 | _____ |
| Voices in Love/Love Lost | \$15 | _____ |
| Voices in Standards | \$15 | _____ |
| Voices in Modern/Funny How Time Slips Away | \$15 | _____ |

Overseas add \$5.00 for most items

GRAND TOTAL \$_____

*Available to Members ONLY

MUSIC MART Order Summary

Please Complete: then 1) mail to FFS Music Mart
 Barbara Emerson, Director
 74 Doncaster Lane
 Bluffton, SC 29909

 or 2) fax 866-538-9044

 or 3) call 843-271-6001
 or 888-448-7429

 or 4) email **johnejazz@sc.rr.com**

Total Product Cost \$ _____

Plus Credit Card (only) Handling Charge \$ 1.00

Add \$5 per item for Overseas Shipping \$ _____

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 _____

E-mail Address _____

WAYNE'S MUSIC WORLD:

By Wayne Corey, FFS Wisconsin

"PROFESSOR" GREG STEGEMAN

Wayne Corey has been a member of the Four Freshmen Society since 1991 and serves on the FFS corporate board of directors. A retired executive who has written for numerous publications and websites, he is a long-time Wisconsin and national Easter Seals volunteer and serves on the board of Easter Seals Wisconsin. He can be reached at Wayne.Corey.jazz@gmail.com.

Talking music with Greg Stegeman is like being in a college classroom. Ask a question and get an education. My education from "Professor" Stegeman started 20+ years ago when I learned Greg can help serious fans understand the special qualities of Four Freshmen songs. I had to smile appreciatively as Greg took the Wannabees into his "classroom" at the Four Freshmen Society 2013 convention.

The Four Freshmen have been harmonizing great songs since four guys from Indiana got together in 1948. We've heard many of those songs for many years. It's easy to take them for granted. But not just any piece of music can become a Four Freshmen song. Not every song "works." Greg Stegeman knows. Greg sang a dozen years with the Freshmen, most famously as the lead singer who followed Bob Flanigan, first when Flan was sidelined by a heart attack in 1990 and non-stop from 1992-1999 after Flan retired. That period included the much-hailed, hard-swinging FF Group #20. Greg has arranged a lot of FF songs and sung lots more. He knows what "works."

"It's a combination of two things. It has to be romantic in nature. The lyrics need to express a romantic interest. Musically it has to be harmonically rich. For that you have to go back to the standards," Greg told me. He mentions George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Harold Arlen as prime examples of composers who wrote songs that found a home in the Freshmen songbook.

Freshmen charts feature modern jazz harmonies, Greg points out. Siting Gershwin, Porter & Arlen he said, "the harmonies they use are sophisticated enough that the Freshmen approach seems very appropriate." The songs "have to be harmonically rich and you have to go back to the '30s, '40s & '50s for that. You get into the '60s and there were still guys who were writing new standards, like Johnny Mandel."

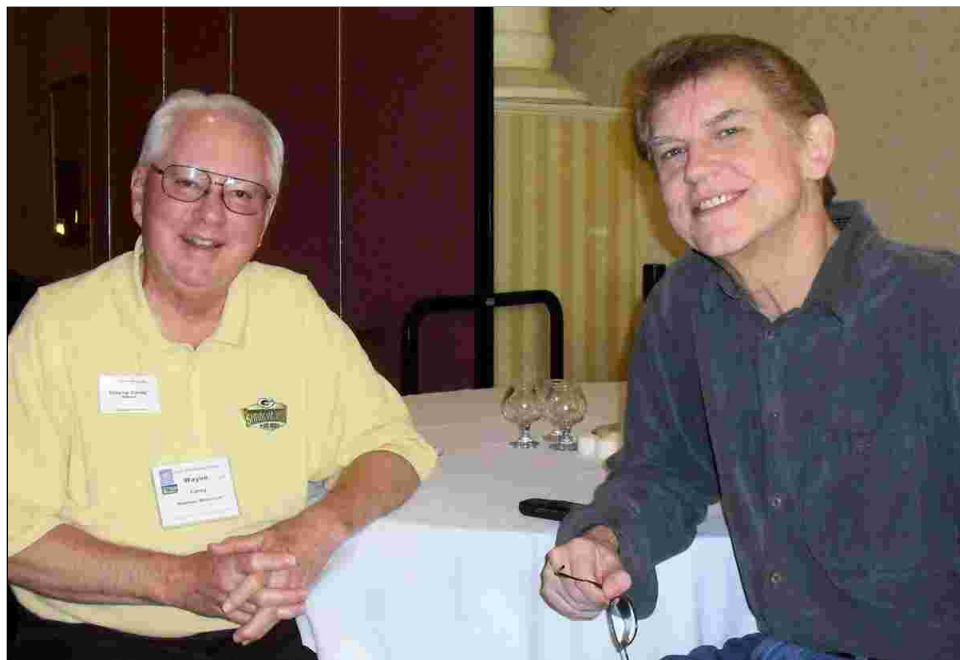
"The Freshmen deal with modern harmony, jazz harmony. More contemporary material – pop material

– generally uses simple triads. The Freshmen sounds use the seventh of the chord rather than just the root, third and fifth that you hear in rock & roll and pop music," Greg told me.

There is another key factor. "There are a lot of great standards that perhaps have too much movement in them. The simple things work...where the phrases are long. Sustained notes, not a lot of eighth notes. Not a lot of movement. The sustained harmonies draw people's ears into that sound. It's really those three things. The harmonic sophistication, romanticism and the songs themselves – the melodies – (that) are relatively simple.

"A perfect example would be *It's a Blue World*. There's very little movement in that song. (sings) 'It's a Blue World without you...' It's all... sustained. Very little lyrical movement. So the sustained harmonies are what make the dynamic sound."

The Freshmen sound includes movement of the 2nd and 3rd voices within a chord.



Wayne Corey & Greg Stegeman chat about music at the 2013 FFS Convention.

"When you hear that movement they are making that chord change. Generally speaking, most standards have a chord change every two beats in a measure where there are four beats. In a typical ballad, every two beats there is a chord change. So that is what you're hearing when you hear those 2nd and 3rd parts move. They're making that chord change. Perhaps the lead melody will remain the same but the inner parts are making the chord change. That's where you hear the movement," Greg says.

"What people don't realize...is that up-tempo arrangements are much more difficult to learn. In a ballad, you have the luxury of sustaining that tone. There's some movement but it's not going by quickly. (In a song) like *Route 66* it really takes a lot of rehearsal to get the up-tempo things together. (continued on page 10)

Wayne's World: Professor Stegeman

(continued from page 9)

The irony is that when people think of the up-tempo things they kind of think well, that must have been easy to do, because we're just swinging along. But all those things are harmonized. So something like *Route 66* when you are rehearsing, you have to do those parts as if they are ballads to make sure everyone knows what their part is and how it works and (get) all those chords lining up."

What is the most difficult arrangement the Freshmen ever sang? Greg knows what revered founding Freshman Ross Barbour believed.

"Ross said that *Midnight Sun* from *More Four Freshmen & Five Trombones* was the most difficult chart they ever did. In fact, they had to record it in phrases. It took them a while to get four bars. Then they had to stop and work on the next four bars."

What makes *Midnight Sun* so difficult?

"It's chromatic. That's all half-steps. (He sings) 'Your lips were like a red and ruby...' They're all very close tones, but they have to be really accurate. You have to start harmonizing that, too. The melody itself is very difficult. It's not an openly natural melody. Very chromatic. Very sophisticated harmony. We're talking Pete Rugolo arrangements. Probably more harmonically advanced than even Dick Reynolds ever got with the Freshmen. So it was really a challenge. Plus the melody is quite a (challenge). (He sings) 'Warmer than a midnight sun.' That interval is a major 7th. So the melody itself is very

difficult, and then you're harmonizing it with four parts. Sophisticated jazz harmony. I think that's what made it so difficult."

More Four Freshmen & Five Trombones has always been a favorite of this writer. It's a good example of the strength of "new standards" in the 1960s Greg mentioned. That album uses virtually all new-at-the-time songs that became major parts of the Great American Songbook. Ross Barbour once told me the Freshmen picked the songs for *More Five Trombones* "because they are great songs," without much thought to their durability.

Greg has his ideas about the most difficult arrangements he personally recorded with the Freshmen.

"I found *Their Hearts Were Full of Spring* to be really tough because it was A cappella and very sophisticated and everyone has to really nail their parts for it to really ring. And that's not enough. It's such an emotional song lyrically, too. You can't just sing the notes. It's a deeply emotional song and that was always a challenge. I've had the unique experience of singing both the top part and the third part on the arrangement and they're both really hard to do. And it's my favorite. I remember hearing it on the radio when I was in high school and it stopped me dead in my tracks."

Of the numerous charts he wrote for the group, Greg names *Where Do You Start* as his favorite. He concedes that his arrangement of *Unforgettable*, is the chart always mentioned by Freshmen fans. "Bob Flanagan himself said it was one of the greatest arrangements the Four Freshmen ever did so I carry that with me with great pride." He should! And we can all be grateful that more than a dozen years after he left the group, Greg Stegeman is still helping all of us understand that wonderful Four Freshmen "sound."

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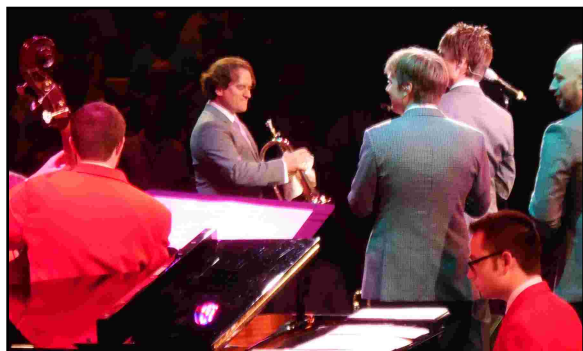
Bach and Other

Mel Meyers, FFS Toledo, OH

This past Labor Day weekend Barbara and I spent time at the Detroit Jazz Festival. For us the main attractions were the Four Freshmen and the Toledo Jazz Orchestra. When you put these two groups together, add the link of reverence to Stan Kenton and his history with the Four Freshmen and terrific charts, you get excitement unheard of.

Barb and I had the pleasure of joining these two organizations on one stage at the 2011 FFS Convention in Toledo for the first time. The Detroit Jazz Festival reprised that particular show on a Saturday afternoon. While there we talked with guy who performed bass in his lifetime in Wisconsin. We chatted as I tried to sell CD's and ultimately he said that he knows a "one line" that sums up the Four Freshmen performance and that was, "There are two types of music, "Bach" and "other!" These Guys are "Bach!" We were swamped at the CD table.

Fast forward into the January show with the Glen Miller Orchestra at Busch Garden in Florida. While our seats clearly displayed their backsides because the "joint was loaded." We anxiously awaited what the sound would beEVEN BETTER! You really should check their schedule in the *FreshNews* and check them out. Of course the FFS Music Mart has their CD - *Live At The Franklin Theatre*.



The Four Freshmen with their backs to us during the Busch Gardens concert.

A Valentine's Day Present: The Four Freshmen

by Tom Purvis, FFS Ohio

I received a phone call yesterday from John Bangs. John is doing OK but struggles with Parkinson's and the restricted activities related. On Valentine's Day his daughter drove him to see the Four Freshmen in Wisconsin Rapids, an hour or so from his home. There was a good crowd, mostly filling the 600 seats despite the "crappy" weather.

John said, "I was very favorably impressed with the change in personnel and musical parts. The group's sound is now a bit stronger and Brian and Stein played off each other very well."

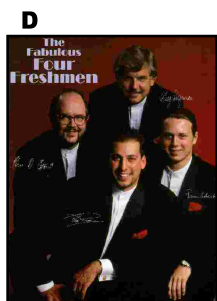
John was pleased that the guys came out after the show to meet with the fans, sign CD's etc. They were very sociable.

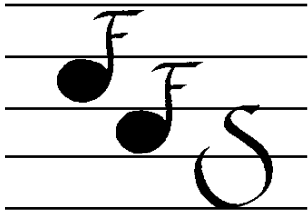
Those who know John say historically he has often been a critic, so Group 23 must have really put on a good show to get this kind review.



What's Their Number?

How many Group Numbers can you get correct.





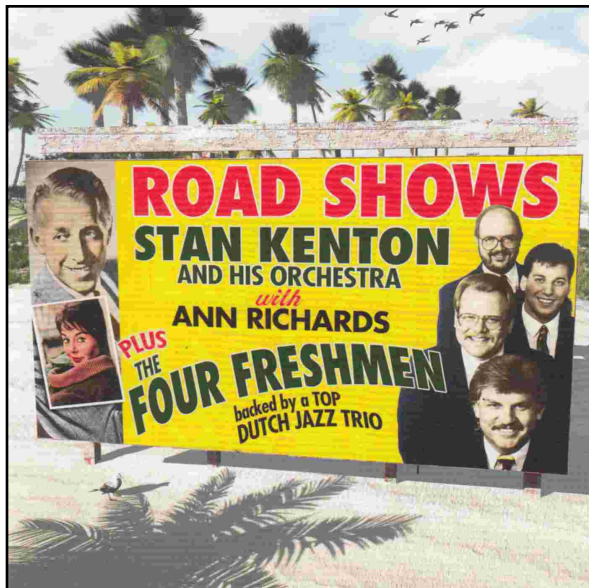
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