

Thanks Brian & Hello Tommy

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he's doing a great job with the lead part. I look forward to seeing the new group.

These days, I'm doing a lot of writing and working on some other creative projects. There are a few Brian Wilson tours on the calendar this year as well, so I'm looking forward to those.

There are a couple Four Freshmen dates in April that conflicted with Tommy's teaching schedule, so I'll be back with the FF to cover those gigs, then Tommy will be the main guy from about May onward.

I wish the guys all the best, and I'll have fond memories of the friends I met thru The Four Freshmen Society.

Till next time,
Brian"

We certainly owe a good deal of credit to Brian for his friendship, his musicianship, and his leadership over nearly the past two decades of The Four Freshmen history. We wish him only the best in his future creative endeavors, and we look forward to crossing his musical path in the years ahead.

Thank you, Brian!

At the same time, we congratulate and welcome the 25th talented musician to be a part of The Four Freshmen over the past 67 years. Tommy Boynton is the newest member, singing lead tenor, and playing bass. He attended Phil Mattson's prestigious School for Music Vocations in Creston, Iowa, as did Brian. Tommy graduated from the New England Conservatory in Boston before returning to Iowa as a faculty member at SMV. He has shared the stage with several Grammy nominated musicians, including jazz pianist Fred Hersch and critically acclaimed jazz vocalist Kate McGarry.

Welcome to The Freshmen family, Tommy. On behalf of The Four Freshmen Society, we look forward to getting to know you as the newest member of our favorite jazz vocal group.

Stein Malvey

"He Speaks (sorta)!"

...playing guitar and singing the second part, he's been in the band over thirteen months..." That's the running joke at shows, told during my introduction. Yep, I'm the new guy, and by a considerable margin. I was invited to share some thoughts about this past year with *FreshNews*. It would be impossible to describe such an eventful year without running long. However, there were a few things that really stood out to me, and I'd like to share those with you.

Thought #1: The soaring harmony and timeless melodies of The Four Freshmen masks the complexity the music brilliantly.

Translation: It's not easy to make it sound pretty (or easy). I don't know that I've ever worked so long and hard on repertoire in my entire life. But it all comes together, there just isn't anything like it.

Thought #2: Bob Ferreira has memory that rivals modern technology.

As I began learning songs, I started learning about this incredible organization, The Four Freshmen Society. Hanging out as a band during meals, travel, and downtime, I started to hear names of FFS members pop up in conversation. In particular, Bob would rattle off an astounding number of names. But not just names, specific details about each person as well! The guys would share stories about how supportive the FFS, and all the fans have been over the years. I'll be honest, I'm terrible with names. I remember faces, but names...oh boy. Anyhow, I began to see a tapestry of folks all over the world who are so enthusiastic and supportive of this great music. Now that we're heading back to certain regions for my second or third time, I have a chance to say hello to some of you again, and I couldn't be happier about it. I'm sorry to say, I'm no better with names. I hope to get there eventually, although I may never be the steel trap that is Bob Ferreira. That guy is amazing!

Thought #3: People everywhere like good music.

In the space of a year, we've played in cities and towns all over the country, and traveled to New Zealand and Japan. The locales may be disparate, but no

matter what, people just like to listen to good music. It really does connect us, and that's not some empty platitude. From what I've seen, I really think it's true, and it's incredible to be a part of it.

Like I said, it was a big year, and I could go on and on. But I'll spare you all and refrain from doing so. Thank you all for all the support you have given the band for all these years. You are an incredible group of people! See ya out there!

