

A Random Meeting

by Bob Ferreira

For the most part, life of a road musician is fairly mundane. It is a common misconception that traveling the country and the world is both glamorous and exciting. Truth is, most of the time it is time spent in airports, hotels, and venues with little time for much else. But every now and then circumstances intersect to create unique little memories that are worth sharing. I'd like to share a story that happened to me while on my travels recently.

It was back in December when we were performing our annual run in the beautiful Royal Room at the Colony Hotel in sunny Palm Beach, Florida. It was a typically beautiful day and I decided to head over to Starbucks located inside the small boutique mall located next to the hotel to have my daily dose of caffeinated bliss before heading to the beach to take photos and prepare for the day ahead. I was sitting outside sipping my espresso when I see this attractive young woman walking towards Starbucks. I don't think much of it until I see this young lady look at me and smile. I smile back and give a slight nod in greeting. Then as she is about to enter through the door she looks my way and slightly smiles at me...AGAIN! Part of me likes to think, "Bob, you still got it, old boy!" So I continue my caffeine infusion when I see this same young lady exit the Starbucks talking on her cell phone and walking off with no coffee in hand. All I can think at that point is, "Nobody should have to leave Starbucks empty handed." But I have an illness for which the only cure is Starbucks! Ha Ha! But, I digress.

It is not more than a minute or two later when I see this same young woman come walking back. But this time she is walking toward me! She approaches my table and says, "Excuse me, but is your name Bob?"

Uh, I answer, "Yes it is."

Then she asks me, "Bob, Freshmen?"

UHHHH, I answer again "That's me."

Then she introduces herself, "I am Lindsey Morrison. I'm Jack and Mary Morrison's granddaughter.".... and my jaw drops.

Then she tells me, "I am on the phone with Jack now. Would you like to say hi?"

I chuckle as she hands me her phone and have a quick and pleasant conversation with one of our most dedicated fans and friends, Jack Morrison - what a rare and random moment.

After talking with Jack, Lindsey and I sit and engage in conversation. She brings up the time when we performed for Jack and Mary's 50th wedding anniversary at St. Thomas Aquinas College near Grand Rapids, MI.

I said, "I remember that day very well. about two or three years ago, right?"

She responded, "That was about 8 years ago." My jaw drops again! My, how time flies. Turns out that Lindsey was one of the few young ones running around the theater area enjoying that days events. Now she is a beautiful young woman going to college in West Palm Beach and just happened to make that Starbucks her regular coffee stop - random moments.

We continued chatting for some time before we parted ways, but it was something that Lindsey said that stuck with me and is another main reason for the article I write you now. Lindsey said that Jack and Mary would play her Four Freshmen music all the time when she was very young and that the music holds a special place in her heart and was such a big part of her upbringing. Lindsey recognized me right away in some random coffee shop in another state even though the last time she saw the group live she was maybe 14 or 15 years old.

The reason I bring this up is because when fans ask us what we can do to get a younger audience to appreciate this music. The answer that comes to mind is one inspired by Jack, Mary, and young Lindsey. You have to share the things you love, no matter what the pastime, with those who are at an age where those pastimes will become special memories; memories that will help open their minds later. I grew up listening to Julie London and Frankie Laine. When I was in high school I listened to hard rock, but I never stopped loving Julie or Frankie because the memories of my childhood and listening to those records my parents played for me will always remain. The lesson here is "Instill inspiration and your life's passions in young ones and you will instill nostalgia and your legacy."

It all starts with you.

