

Oakville Christmas Concert

By Maurice Byrne

What a great thrill to have the Fabulous Four Freshmen performing a Christmas Concert to an appreciable, if less than capacity audience in Oakville, Ontario Canada.

We were treated to a good mix of Freshmen favorites, plus some Christmas songs from the *Snowfall* CD.

We got some CD sales for the guys and met some fans who have not seen them (the Four Freshmen) for years and were delighted with the show.

Hope to increase the fan base up here in Canada so they will come back soon.



Angel Eyes in Findlay, Ohio

By Annamarie Hess

I'm writing this at the request of Bob Ferreira in the last issue of Fresh News.

In 1956 I was a Freshman at Findlay College in Findlay, Ohio. It is now the University of Findlay. My boyfriend insisted that I take a break from studying one night to listen to Buck Matthews from WJR in Detroit. My boyfriend had requested *Angel Eyes* by the Four Freshmen, I was hooked by him and the Four Freshmen sound, which is still the best after all these years.

By the way Bob, I have been following you too since the first time you sang with the Four Freshmen in Columbus, Indiana in 1992.

NOTE: As per our Historian, Christian Rank, "*Angel Eyes*" was recorded August 1955 on the *Five Trombone Album* with Group 2. Group 2 was Bob Flanigan, Don Barbour, Ross Barbour and Ken Errair.

FN APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2018

APPLES and ORANGES

by Bob Ferreira

Certain questions I am often asked would seem to be simple ones.

"What has been your favorite favorite performance with the Freshmen?"

"What is your favorite standout moment with the group?"

The list goes on.

These would seem simple questions to answer, but for me they are some of the most difficult. I have never been one to respond to these kinds of questions with a firm "black and white" answer... And if I have, it has only been because I have to simplify for everyone's sanity. Otherwise, I would have to spend an hour answering these "simple" questions. HaHa!

I'm an "apples and oranges" type of guy which means that I see (or at least try to see) the beauty and quality in each and every moment, person, place, or thing I experience on my journey through life. For instance, I can't say Mel Torme is my favorite singer because, to me, even though Mel was a huge influence on me when I first started singing, Mark Murphy had such a way of phrasing ballads that it stuck with me and inspired me in such profoundly different ways. Johnny Hartman had this tone and effortless expression that would make the soles of my shoes vibrate every time I listened to him. How could I simply relegate all these amazing qualities of these other iconic performers to second place by saying something as simple as, "Mel Torme is my favorite male singer." Music and life is so much more complex and beautiful than that for me.

Another thing that may be interesting and very much surprising for some of you to know is for a lot of musicians and entertainers, the fondest memories and more indelible moments in their careers do not even involve the stage! I used to meet up with the late-great Bob Flanigan almost weekly for coffee and we would chat and he would share his stories of the road. One thing I always remember Bob saying was that what he missed most about the road was not the performing, but rather the traveling and the people he met along the way. I have come to know this to be all too true. Sure, I have moments from the stage that will stay with me to my dying day, but what I remember even more than that are times like sitting outside at a rustic old restaurant on a September night in Quebec City watching people walk by on the cobblestone streets while breathing the crisp Fall air. Or, having our traditional post show laughs and margaritas with our friends Elmer and Barbie Schroeder at Chili's restaurant in The Villages, Florida; or the smell of pine from the giant Christmas tree that occupied the lobby of the Colony Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida where we spent a good portion of the last 15 Decembers performing; or sitting in a tiny motel in the middle of nowhere with nothing but a dinner and view of a wheat field to pass the time; or a million more memories and wonderful souls I've met along the way.

The music is always important, but to me, music is but a palette from which we paint our important memories in life that are peripheral to the stage. I am just so fortunate to be able to utilize such a rich palette with The Freshmen to create some amazing memories and a million tiny miracles that will stay with me always.

Apples and Oranges, my friends!

