

# GROUP 26

## Who Are They?

**JAKE BALDWIN** sings 3rd part and plays the trumpet. His musical life began at 10 years old in Florence, Oregon where he chose to try the trumpet in school band and was immediately enamored with it. Jake attended the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts and holds a bachelors degree in Jazz Studies. He placed third in the 2010 International Trumpet Guild's Jazz Trumpet Competition, 2nd in the 2013 National Trumpet Competition's Jazz division, and he was a finalist in the 2019 Carmine Caruso International Jazz Trumpet competition. Jake currently resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota and is one of the most in demand freelance trumpet players in the twin cities with performances ranging from his own original jazz groups to the Minnesota Orchestra.

**TOMMY BOYNTON** Singing 1st tenor and playing bass, Tommy grew up in Aurora, Colorado. His musical journey began in the 3rd grade, singing in a children's chorus, and studying piano and drums. Tommy's love for music lead him to Phil Mattson's prestigious School for Music Vocations (SMV) in Creston, Iowa. He then graduated from the New England Conservatory in Boston, Massachusetts in 2012, where he studied with Dominique Eade and Ran Blake. Boynton continued to share his love and passion for music by returning to SMV where he taught for the three years until he joined the Freshmen. He is an avid soccer player and cyclist and has toured across the Midwest and around the Pacific Northwest on his bicycle. He currently resides in Fairfield, Iowa. While on the road, he misses his kitties, Alice and Little Brother, and his dog, Yoda.

**BOB FERREIRA** Singing 4th part and playing drums, Ferreira began his life of music in high school playing drums in a rock band. He subsequently joined his high school chamber choir and vocal jazz ensemble in Bothell, Washington. Bob auditioned and was accepted into the notable vocal jazz ensemble "Soundsation" at Edmonds Community College under the direction of former Four Freshmen, Kirk Marcy. Ferreira then transferred to Central Washington University where he began pursuing his degree in Music Education. It was there where The Four Freshmen, by Marcy's recommendation, offered Ferreira a position in the legendary vocal group. In his tenure with the Freshmen, Ferreira has performed in all 50 states,

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# Jake - The New Guy

by Jake Baldwin

Hey there everyone, my name is Jake Baldwin and I'm honored to be the newest member of The Four Freshmen. I grew up in a house where music was constantly playing thanks to my father, who was always seeking out and sharing artists from every imaginable genre with me. I took up the trumpet when I was 10 because I wanted to play the melody, and I wanted to be able to play it loud! About a year later, my parents took me to see the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra lead by the great Wynton Marsalis. Looking back on it, I believe it was in this moment that my heart decided I was going to be a musician for the rest of my life, even if my brain didn't know it yet. At the time I was obsessed with the idea of becoming a baseball player like my older brother, but trumpet and music soon became my new and lasting obsession. From there, my love of music and the trumpet coupled with the invaluable help of some amazing mentors continued to grow and lead me to attend the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. It was during this time that I first met and performed with Freshmen member Tommy Boynton.



After graduating in 2013, I moved to Minneapolis, where I briefly worked for a trumpet manufacturing company before taking the plunge into becoming a full time freelance musician. I have been lucky enough to work with what feels like hundreds of groups in the Twin Cities, playing locally and internationally. Because of the amazing teachers who gave me so much growing up, I also teach lessons and try to instill the same sense of confidence and passion about music that they instilled in me.

The Four Freshmen is the dream gig that I never knew I wanted. I was first contacted by Tommy about the potential of auditioning for the group when I was on my way to compete in the Carmine Caruso International Jazz Trumpet Competition in September of 2019. His initial question was, "Hey, do you sing?" to which I responded, "Sure?" with no small amount of uncertainty. I had sung backgrounds in rock bands before, but had never actually considered myself a singer. Shortly after this exchange, Tommy got me some of the music and I started listening intensely to the Freshmen and practicing these parts, finding myself constantly amazed by the incredible harmonies and beautiful arranging. I feel truly lucky to be a part of this tradition and even more lucky to get to regularly perform with Tommy, Bob, and Stein. They are all consummate artists and immediately made me feel like I was part of a family. Through singing, I have found a skill that I didn't even know I had! There is no question in my mind that being in The Four Freshmen has made me a better singer, trumpet player, and all around musician. I can't wait to see what the future holds for the group!

Outside of my time spent playing music, I enjoy running, reading short stories, playing video games, and eating pizza with my friends.

Jake Baldwin