

# The Four Freshmen: One Fan's Inspirations and Connections

by Mark Schlichting

**A Northwest Concert:** On April 10, 2016, Erin and I drove down to Olympia, WA (my home town!) to finally see the guys in a live performance with the SPSC College Jazz band, and they were STELLAR! I was able to contact Bob Ferreira in advance, as we had several mutual friends-- he graduating from Bothell High School near Seattle, where my fellow Olympia High alum, Judd Aetzel, was the Band Director! I was able to get a photo with the group after the concert.



Mark with Group #24 in Olympia, WA, April 10, 2016

I missed Brian and Vince, but Stein and Tommy are outstanding additions to the group and will carry on The Four Freshmen legacy for sure! The crowd, though large, would have been SRO if the performance address had been correctly listed in the publicity material. People came from Idaho, Montana and Oregon to hear them!

**A Guitar Coincidence:** As many of you know, Brian Eichenberger left The Four Freshmen to tour with Mike Love and The Beach Boys (sans Brian Wilson) to sing some of Wilson's falsetto while playing electric guitar/bass. The Beach Boys performed in Bellingham, WA (my home town for the past 48 years) on November 11, 2017, and Erin and I attended the concert. In some YouTube live videos with The Four Freshmen, I had seen Eich playing a rare Gibson ES 335 TD Pro guitar almost identical to mine, and I was hoping to compare guitars with him after the show, but our meeting didn't take place, unfortunately.

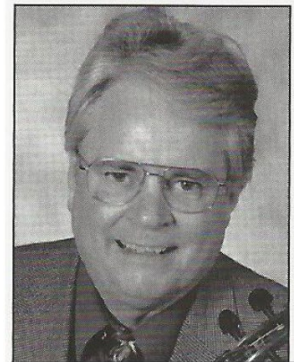


Brian and Mark with rare Gibson ES 335 TD Pro guitars.

**An All-State Collaboration:** For the 2018 All-State WMEA Convention, which culminated in Yakima, WA during the weekend of February 15-18, 2018, former Freshman Kirk Marcy was the Group Manager for the All-State Jazz Choir, and I was the Group Manager for the All-State Symphony Orchestra. We were contracted months in advance to undertake these responsibilities, and when the group managers got together at the evening "watering hole" Kirk spoke fondly of his Four Freshmen experiences as well as of his protégé, Bob Ferreira. Great times!



Kirk Marcy, Group Manager  
2018 Washington  
All-State Jazz Choir



Mark Schlichting, Group  
Manager 2018 Washington All-  
State Symphony Orchestra

**A Dream Come True:** Having been born July 18, 1948, I am exactly two months and two days older than The Four Freshmen. As a 70th birthday gift, and knowing my interest in The Four Freshmen through the years, my offspring and other family members chipped in to help finance our trip to South Bend for The Four Freshmen's 70th Anniversary Celebration. Seeing Bob, Tommy, and Stein again, and greeting Jon as the newest Four Freshmen member was a real kick for me, as was my playing some jazz violin at



the Thursday night "Jam Session" with the compassionate support of organizer David Blackwell. (Thanks again, Dave!)

(continued on page 11)