

Until Next Time...

By Linda Harrison

They came to Nashville from 22 states to gather with other fans and enjoy The Four Freshmen. Ohio, Nevada, Texas, Wisconsin, California, Indiana, Missouri, Tennessee, Connecticut, Florida, Oregon, Maryland, South Carolina, Delaware, Washington, Colorado, Minnesota, Georgia, Kentucky, Arizona, Virginia, and Illinois were all represented at the Hilton BNA Nashville Airport Terminal over the weekend of March 6-7, 2026. And what a gathering it was – more like a “love fest” with folks who hadn’t seen each other for 2½ years and topped off with two incredible Four Freshmen concerts!

- Everyone got a goodie bag created by Mark Schlichting including a:
 - o Four Freshmen real paper fan
 - o Plastic Four Freshmen cup that sparkled with the addition of liquid.
 - o FourFreshmen.com pen with stylus.
 - o Customized mini notebook.
 - o Chocolates wrapped with photos of the guys.
 - o Updated playbill including the new member, Chris Peters.

• Ryan Howe, lead singer for Group 27, joined the group on Saturday night for *When You’re Smiling, Poinciana*, and *The Day Isn’t Long Enough* as well as performing during the Friday Jam Session. He also happily sang *Freshmen Fans* to the tune of *Young at Heart*, with lyrics that had been composed by Kathy Feese, daughter of Ross and Sue Barbour.

• The Barbour family was well represented by Kathy, Gary Barbour, Kent Barbour, Suzanne Bongiorno, and Nancy and Greg Lewis.

• A welcome letter received at hotel check-in provided links to videos from Sue Barbour, Marlene Lobsiger, Dave Blackwell and Yas Ichiura, who were unable to attend.

• One 92-year-old fan, Richard Myer from Cincinnati, who had not flown for over 10 years, was so happy to be there that he brought some collages he had made to donate to the Four Freshmen Society.

• The Jam Session was truly a “jam” -- the performers had not played with the backup trio or each other before the event. Mark provided printed lyrics so everyone could participate in the Singalong, as well full sheet music for the more complicated *Route 66*.

• A limited number of auction items was available for bidding, including Gil Peterson’s album, *Our Last Goodbye*, won by Dina Roth

(FF Manager) and the Don Barbour Album, *Here’s the Solo Voice of Don Barbour* won by Chris Peters.

• Overheard from an audience member following the Fresh Talk: “That was one of the better ones!” And several attendees said how much they liked the smaller, more intimate gathering. The hotel front desk personnel said many people talked about how much they enjoyed the weekend when they checked out. The hotel evening staff even hung around the ballroom entrances to enjoy the music.

• Chaz Cone was the unsung hero of the event – keeping track of the attendees list, creating the name badges and offering advice. And Christian Rank was always



ready to serve wherever he was needed.

• The crowning touch came Saturday night when the guys performed two Encore tunes: first was *Route 66*, which everyone loves, and the audience, which was already a bit emotional, was waiting for *Blue World* as the final number. Instead, they performed *What a Wonderful World*, and there were only a few dry eyes!



Apparently, we all got what we came for: pleasant environment, good food, good people and great music. You can’t get any better than that!