

# Four Freshmen to Play in Norman

By Hannah Cruz The Norman Transcript  
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NORMAN - Jazzy melodies will conjure visions of famous crooners like Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin when the Four Freshmen fill the Sooner Theatre with swing vocal harmonies at 8 p.m. on Friday.

Starting in 1948, the group quickly became famous for their renditions of *Graduation Day*, *Poinciana*, *Day by Day* and *Blue World*. Though the faces of the group have changed throughout the years, Bob Ferreira, Brian Eichenberger, Vince Johnson and Curtis Calderon will pay homage to the original group at this weekend's performance.

"A lot of people ask if there's a lot of pressure to continue the legacy but we don't see it like that. The four of us, we take pride in the sound and making it sound the best that we can make it sound," Ferreira, base singer for the group, said. "The original lead singer, Bob Flanigan, who passed away last year, said that this was the best group since the original group. That says a lot coming from him, who was one of the biggest parts of why that sound was so unique."

In the 60 plus year history of the group, the four have recorded over 50 albums. Ferreira said the group plays a cross-section of music - from pop to jazz - that spans the history of the group at every concert.

For the Norman concert, Ferreira said the four will be playing some songs that have not been officially released.

The new songs are a part of the group's most recent recording project, Ferreira said, that will tentatively be released in late spring or early summer. The CD can be purchased online at [www.4freshmen.com](http://www.4freshmen.com).

"We basically have a little bit of everything for everyone and we have fun on stage. We like to change it up a little bit," he said. "I think what a lot of people don't realize is the Four Freshmen have always accompanied themselves instrumentally."

"A lot of people will think, 'Does the group always play instruments?' And the answer is yes. They'll be able to see that. We change it up during the show and make it a little more intimate around one microphone. I think it's something that the audience will definitely enjoy and appreciate."

The four's fan base is mostly those who remember the hits from the 1950s, Ferreira said, and enjoy the nostalgia of the group's music. But still, he said, their music will appeal to anyone who enjoys pieces from the Great American Songbook.

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# RENO...HERE WE COME!!!!!!

By Gil Peterson

As all of you know by now, the 2012 convention will be held in Reno, Nevada on Oct. 4-6. Reno is a premier convention city. The weather that time of year is simply spectacular with temperatures that are crisp, but not cold and the skies are crystal clear. If you have been there, you know what I am saying is true and if you have not been there, you certainly need to go there. The foliage will be turning all different colors and the scenery around the area is fabulous. There are numerous sightseeing locations less than an hour drive from our hotel. As an example, the beautiful Lake Tahoe, historic Virginia City, and the capitol of Nevada, Carson City, just to name a few.

The convention is shaping up to be a real blockbuster. I have been in close contact with Joy Woode-Dobies and her husband Dennis, who will be our hosts along with a superb committee and from what I hear, from them; this is one you don't want to miss. As an example, they have arranged for a twenty string orchestra directed by Dr. Rod Henley to back the Freshmen who will perform several selections from their new CD. The new CD will be available for purchase in the 113 Club Room. Speaking of 113 Club, there will be another new CD available that I feel sure you will want for your music library. Those of you who attended the Portland convention will remember Art Abrams big band who gave such a wonderful tribute Jo Ann Kenton. He is a huge Kenton/Freshmen fan and when he found out that Jo Ann would be in the audience, he performed three Kenton arrangements for her. She was completely blown away. What a tribute!!!! Art has a new CD entitled, *Speak Low Swing Hard*. It is truly a fabulous CD and our own Greg Stegeman did a superb arrangement for the CD of the old standard *I Hear A Rhapsody*. It will be on sale in the 113 Club room and Art has generously agreed to donate a portion of the sales to the convention. That is pretty neat! If you love the big band sound, you will love this CD.

I understand that Harrah's Reno has been recently refurbished and the rooms are outstanding as well as very reasonable. Getting to Reno is very simple. Most major airlines fly in and out of Reno/Tahoe International daily and once you arrive, the hotel has a free shuttle service right to the front door. The airport is less than ten minutes from the hotel.

Joy and Dennis are doing a fantastic job of orchestrating this convention. Many surprises await you in Reno, but you will have to be there to find out what they are.

I certainly am looking forward to being there and seeing all of you again to share the wonderful music that we all love. We will make a lot of memories together I'm sure.

SEE YOU IN RENO!!!!



We have 30-40 mouse pads from the Toledo Convention available for sale.

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Voice: 419-380-8596  
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