

Fresh News

Volume 26, No. 3

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2012

Ross Barbour / Bob Flanigan

by Tim Hauser (an excerpt from Jazz Times, March 2012)

The passing of Ross Barbour this past August was duly noted and, I must say, it carried a bit of a sting. The end of an era always carries that bite of reality that causes one to pause and reflect. Ross was the last surviving member of the Four Freshmen, and his passing fell so quickly after his partner Bob Flanigan, who passed in May. Bob was the signature voice of the Four Freshmen, and Ross was the group's founder. My first introduction to one of my favorite vocal groups occurred in 1955, when WNEW played their single *Day by Day*. The musical bar was much higher in those days, so they were not looked upon

up as a jazz group, but rather a pop group. After all, *Day by Day* was a hit single. What was it about the Four Freshmen that so captivated me back when I was 13? I didn't know much about vocal group history, but certainly had enjoyed the big band groups like the Pied Pipers and the Merry Macs. I also liked the Mills Brothers and the Four Aces. But the Four Freshmen were different. They were, for want of a better term, modern. I can't find any other way to describe that sound. I purchased "Day by Day" at my local record store and played that 45 over and over. The flip side was *How Can I Tell Her*: It was as beautiful as the A-side, and that cut too got its grooves worn. That sound really got to me—the way those voices moved around inside the harmony was like nothing I had ever heard.

To bring things full circle, Vince Johnson, of the current Four Freshmen incarnation, is a friend of mine, and we go to ball games together. Our respective ladies are friends, so we hang quite a bit. The Four Freshmen of today are as good as the band during the Ken Albers days. Yes, it was duly noted that Ross Barbour passed, as the last original member. But the good news is the Four Freshmen are still making great music. Go check them out, say hello to Vince, and give him my regards. They are still quite "modern."



Tim Hauser of "Manhattan Transfer" attended the Four Freshmen concert in McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert, CA, March 26, 2012.

Right: The boys sign autographs at the McCallum





Here are some sample pages from a new fancy limited edition of *Now You Know* I am publishing. This book contains much extra material such as a chapter by Sue Barbour and over 100 new photos from the Capitol Archives.

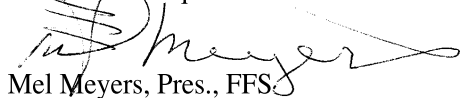
The only thing in this book that were in the other two editions is Ross's text. The book is much larger, coffee-table size, 12"x11", on a fine coated stock, full color throughout, with more than 100 new photos from the Capitol Archives, it has a Foreword by Beach Boy Brian Wilson and a concluding chapter from Sue Barbour. It is very deluxe, limited to 1500 copies, each copy is numbered, and each copy is signed by Sue. It will be available in Reno. Those who want to order at a pre-publication discount can write to me, russ@russcochran.com.

From the Prez...

Yes, Autumn is coming and maybe a rendition of *Early Autumn*, the great Bill Comstock arrangement will be heard at a certain Reno Hotel in October, 2012.

Woody Allen once offered the following challenge: "80% of success is just showing up!" It's putting one foot in front of the other and getting involved, showing your face and confirming your commitment to FFS and the Four Freshmen. Do that by registering and attend the Reno Convention (Application contained herein).

Your presence matters! Your 80% matters so "Be there, don't be square! See YOU in Reno!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Mel Meyers, Pres., FFS

Record Vinyl to CDs

by Ann Smith Texas Coordinator

I thought you might like to hear about this wonderful gadget I just got. It's a combination of: (1) turntable, (2) CD burner, (3) tape deck, and (4) radio. So, I can now play my wonderful LPs - plus transfer them to CDs if I want. The brand name is: IT (Innovative Technologies). The table top unit is about 1 ft x 1 ft x 2 ft and comes in a nice cabinet that they've given sort of a retro look (like the 50's). The only place that I know that carries them is Kohl's Department Stores. The price is approximately \$179 (\$194 with tax). Also, I asked if I could get any kind of discount on it when I was checking out. I got a discount for opening an account and charging it to that new credit card. Plus they gave me the discount of the week, which brought it down to \$136 (including tax). What a deal! I was so glad to get it that I would gladly have gone with the original amount if necessary. I just thought you might like to know. See you in Reno.

Fresh News is published quarterly © 2011, all rights reserved, celebrating THE FOUR FRESHMEN, the best vocal/instrumental quartet in the world. Publication does not imply approval of FFS corporate directors or trustees. Each author is responsible for his/her article.

Deadlines for consideration of articles:

1. Jan/Feb/March - Dec 15
2. Apr/May/June - March 15
3. July/Aug/Sept - June 15
4. Oct/Nov/Dec - Sept 15

Submit manuscripts to the Editor:
Tom Purvis, tpurvis@bex.net

The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

Check the Website: fourfreshmensociety.com or fourfreshmen.com for updates

For bookings: International Ventures Incorporated

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25115 Avenue Stanford, Suite A-102, Valencia, CA 91355

Phone: 661-259-4500 FAX: 661-259-1310

Email: info@ivimanagement.com

Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

For information or questions call: Mel Meyers 419-380-8596

July 8, 2012

Lewiston, NY

Art Park, 450 South 4th St., Showtime: 3pm, Box Office: 716-754-4375

July 14, 2012

Williams Bay, WI

Music by the Lake, Performing with The Lettermen, Ferro Pavilion, 350 Constance Blvd., Showtime: 7:30pm, Tickets: 866-843-5200 (toll free)

July 18-21, 2012

Gross Point Farms, MI

Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval Ave., Showtime: TBA
Reservations: 313-882-5299

July 28, 2012

Alto, NM

Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 108 Spencer Rd., Showtime: 8pm, Box Office: 888-818-7872 or 575-336-4800

August 01, 2012

Newport Beach, CA

Sunset Jazz at Newport, Newport Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa Rose Garden, 900 Newport Center Dr., Showtime: 6pm, Tickets: 949-759-5003

August 03, 2012

Newport Beach, CA

Balboa Bay Club & Resort, 1221 West Coast Hwy., Showtime: 6:30pm, Tickets: 949-645-5000

August 09, 2012

Boston, MA

Scullers Jazz Club, Doubletree Suites by Hilton Hotel Boston, 400 Soldiers Field Rd., Showtime: TBA, Tickets: 617-562-4111

August 10, 2012

Goshen, CT

17th Annual Litchfield Jazz Festival, Goshen Fairgrounds, 116 Old Middle St., Showtime: 7:30pm

September 06, 2012

Las Vegas, NV

The Bono Show, The South Point Hotel & Casino, 9777 Las Vegas Blvd., Showtime: 2:00pm, Tickets: 702-797-8055

September 07, 2012

Las Vegas, NV

The South Point Hotel & Casino, 9777 Las Vegas Blvd., Showtime: 7:30pm, Tickets: 702-797-8055

September 08, 2012

Las Vegas, NV

The South Point Hotel & Casino, 9777 Las Vegas Blvd., Showtime: 7:30pm, Tickets: 702-797-8055

September 09, 2012

Las Vegas, NV

The South Point Hotel & Casino, 9777 Las Vegas Blvd., Showtime: 7:30pm, Tickets: 702-797-8055

September 20, 2012

Williamson, WV

Tug Valley Arts Council, Showtime: 7:30pm, Tickets: TBA, Venue: TBA

September 21, 2012

Beckley, WV

Beckley Concert Association, Woodrow Wilson Auditorium, 410 Stanaford Rd., Showtime: 7:30pm, Tickets: 304-253-9591 or -8923

October 04-07, 2012

Reno, NV

Four Freshmen Society Convention, See attached insert

October 21, 2012

Santa Rosa, CA

Santa Rosa Symphony, Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Rd., Showtime: 7:30pm, Tickets: 707-54-music (546-8742)

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905-575-1530
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FFS New Member/or Renewal Form

Name _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

(9 digit zip please)

Telephone # _____

Fax # _____

E-mail _____

New Member Fee: \$32.00
Single or Couple (worldwide)

All Renewals: One Year \$22.00
Two or more years \$17.00 each year

FFS dues are not tax deductible.

Please mail form and correct fee to:

Chaz Cone
FFS Membership Dept.
6900 Hunters Knoll NE
ATLANTA GA 30328-1763

Or renew online at
www.fourfreshmensociety.com/dues

New Members

Paul Aragon, Palm Desert, CA

Brian & Mari Bentley,
East Hampton, CT

Jack Berry, Hamburg, PA

Bob & Wanda Birmingham
Boca Raton, FL

Robert & Bobbi Callan,
Upland, CA

Joe Cavness, Sacramento, CA

Tava & Don Edwards, Norman, OK

George Farkas, Dayton, OH

Steve Fillo, New York, NY

Mary Kate Gach, Birmingham, AL

Angelo & Eileen Giambra, Largo, FL

John & Brenda Green, Murray, UT

Sammye Heald, Gadsen, AL

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Miller Makey, Beavercreek, OH

Nancy Max, Rockwall, TX

Fred Miller, Vancouver, WA

Jack & Dottie Morgan,
Sun City Center, FL

Grover & Sheral Ozmun,
Norman, OK

Jack & Ingrid Rennie, Bluffton, SC

Dennis Sankovich, Meridian, MS

Robert & Denise Seals,
South Bend, IN

Roy & Barbara Stewart,
Bolton, United Kingdom

Robert Strand, Lincoln, CA

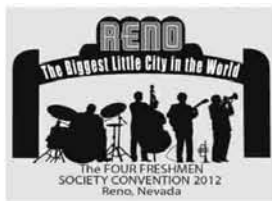
Chuck & Ione Walton, Reseda, CA

Dan Wier, Pasadena, CA

Jo Anne Zeek, Riverbank, CA

Contributions

Tony Leone, Washington, PA



25th Annual Four Freshmen Society Convention
Reno, Nevada
October 4 - 6, 2012
CONVENTION UPDATE - JUNE, 2012

Hello Everyone,

Just a note to share some of the excitement we are feeling behind the scenes of what we hope will be *"An affair to Remember."* While dining at the hotel in Modesto, prior to the FF concert, I approached the Guys with the question, "What would you like at the 2012 Reno Convention?" "Strings" was their reply. And I must say, "Zing went the strings of my heart." (I always loved working with them.) We are all so pleased to present the Fab 4 + 20 strings with Dr. Rod Henley conducting. This will mark your first opportunity to hear "live" selections from their new CD. It's been a thrill for us to see the idea begin to take shape, blossom and become a reality. This convention planning process is an amazing journey with twists and turns, progress and setbacks, sleepless nights and daily fights! We have surprises in store, one in particular you are all going to treasure.

Dennis and I are so indebted to our wonderful core committee members: The Garcias, de la Torres, Sveens, Goodells, Linda Robb and a cast of thousands! Don't miss this opportunity to experience the 25th Silver Anniversary Four Freshmen Society Convention in the "Silver State". Register before the deadlines. Don't wait. "The Biggest Little City" is the place to be Oct. 4, 5 and 6, 2012. We look forward to being with you at Harrah's Reno. Take care.



Sincerely,

Joy Woode-Dobies, Chairperson
The 2012 Four Freshmen Convention
Phone: 775-851-2266
Email: joysjazz4freshmen@gmail.com
Phone: 775-851-2266



COMPLIMENTARY SHUTTLE SERVICE: Harrah's Reno provides this service to and from the Reno/Tahoe International Airport. It starts at 4:30 a.m. and runs until 10 p.m. Call 775-786-3232 for the latest info.

NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM IN RENO is recognized as one of the top five auto museums in the country by AUTOWEEK Magazine in the March 5, 2012 edition. Walk from Harrah's Reno to the National Automobile Museum (The Harrah Collection). Don't miss out! Mon-Sat, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sun 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$10 - adults, \$8 - seniors. Look here for more information on line: <http://www.automuseum.org>

FRESH MEMORIES: Fresh Talk has been reworked with a new format. Mel Meyers will MC a panel with former Four Freshmen, plus our special guests Mary Flanigan and Sue Barbour. Don't pass up this opportunity to reminisce, ask questions or share a story. Some Freshmen Alumni on the panel (hopefully) include William Comstock, Dr. Rod Henley, Greg Stegeman, Autie Goodman and Kirk Marcy.

IMPORTANT HOTEL ROOM RESERVATION DEADLINE:  **September 11, 2012** is the cut off day to reserve a room at Harrah's. Our reserved block will be given back to the hotel and not saved for Society members.

NO \$20 LATE REGISTRATION FEES: This year there will be no increase for late registrations. But we do need your registration by the following timelines to process shirt orders, final number of dinners, name tags, assigned table seating, etc.

MAIL IN registrations must be postmarked by  **AUGUST 15. ON-LINE registration closes**  **AUGUST 31.** Registrations received **SEPTEMBER 1** and forward will not be guaranteed a shirt, have handwritten name tags and table assignments will be in the back of the room.


EMERGENCY questions or cancellations, please contact the **John or Ronnie Garcia** at **530-432-0250**. They will be en route to Reno the week of the convention, October 1, Monday, so if needing assistance during that time, please call **Joy or Dennis** at **775-851-2266** and they will connect you with the Garcias.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION SHEET



REGISTRATION FEES: Normally the convention price is increased by \$20 per person a few months before; however, this year there will not be an increase for late registrations. You still have time to register with **no late fee**.

U.S. MAIL-IN registration CUT OFF DATE  postmarked by AUGUST 15 (we need time to receive them and process them) Your cancelled check is your confirmation.

ON-LINE (recommended) registration CUT OFF DATE  AUGUST 31 Go to: www.ffa2012.com You will receive an e-mail confirmation. (Website will stay open but there will be no guarantee of a shirt, nametags will be handwritten and your table will be in the back.)

Cancellation Deadlines:

Before August 1 – full refund on cancellations.

August 1 thru August 31 – There is a **\$25** per person processing fee.

NO REFUNDS after August 31

EMERGENCY registration CANCELLATIONS, please contact the John or Ronnie **Garcia** at **530-432-0250**. They will be en route to Reno the week of the convention, October 1, Monday, so if needing assistance canceling during that time, please call **Joy or Dennis** at **775-851-2266** and they will connect you with the Garcias.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: IMPORTANT “New” HOTEL ROOM RESERVATION DEADLINE:  September 11, 2012 is the CUT OFF DAY to reserve a room at Harrah's. Our reserved block will be given back to the hotel and not saved for Society members. You **MUST** reserve your room before this date to guarantee a room at our group rate. Phone **Harrah's Hotel** direct at **1-888-726-6311** to reserve your hotel room. Tell them you are with *The Four Freshmen Society* and the code is: **S09FOUR**. Our special Convention rates are exceptional at **\$52** from Sunday night through Thursday night; Friday is **\$85** and Saturday is **\$95**. There are NO resort fees! As a bonus, the prices are good three days before the Convention and three days after. The RENO International Airport is just five miles from the Hotel. There is a complimentary shuttle available round trip from Harrah's to the airport. Hotel Parking is **free** for hotel guests! **COMPLIMENTARY SHUTTLE SERVICE:** Harrah's Reno provides this service to and from the Reno/Tahoe International Airport. It starts at 4:30 a.m. and runs until 10 p.m. Call (775) 786-3232 for the latest info.


JAM SESSION: Thursday night's open *Jam Session* will be held in the famous history-making **Sammy's Showroom**, named after legendary performer **Sammy Davis Jr.** This grand golden theater seats 400. Relax in a cozy semi-private booth or get a little closer to the action sitting at candle-lit tables that come right up to the stage. Steps lead from the stage out to the audience to give a more intimate experience. This will showcase our talented members in a room that has featured world class performers. We promise a great evening of jazz, and we encourage you to participate. Since time is limited, we will need your **song, key and instrument** so we can be ready for you. Four Freshmen Alumnus, Rod Henley will MC this event. We have over 20 people signed up to perform and time is limited, want to get on the list? Enter it on your registration form.

SHIRTS: This year we have a shirt for the **gals** as well as the **guys**! Both shirts are white with the Reno Convention logo. **Guys'** shirts are 100% cotton, collars, button front and run true to size. **Gals'** shirts are quarter-length sleeves, v-neck with sparkling bling on the Logo (gal's sizes run a little small; suggest ordering one size bigger than usual. If you want a shirt, please order in advance for only **\$30** each on your Registration form. Limited sizes and amounts will be at the convention.



We encourage registering **ON LINE**. Just go to our Convention Website: www.ffa2012.com
For registration questions please call John or Ronnie Garcia at **(530) 432-0250**.
Hope to see you at the 25th Anniversary Four Freshmen Society Convention!

U.S. MAIL-IN registration CUT OFF DATE  postmarked by AUGUST 15

ON-LINE (recommended) registration CUT OFF DATE  AUGUST 31 (Website will stay open a little longer, but there will be no guarantee of a shirt, nametags will be handwritten and your table will be in the back.)

Name(s) _____
(First Name) (Last Name) (First Name) (Last Name)
Address _____ Telephone # (____) _____
(City) (State) E-mail _____
(Full e-mail, i.e.: johnPublic@AOL.com)

COMMEMORATIVE SHIRT: order \$30 each: (enter NUMBER OF Shirts wanted by size & gender)

Guy's sizes: (___ small) (___ med) (___ large) (___ XL) (___ XXL) (___ XXXL)

Gal's shirts running small choose one size larger than usual (___ small) (___ med) (___ large) (___ XL) (___ XXL)


JAM SESSION: Plan to perform at Thursday's Evening Jam Session? ☐ Yes ☐ No C'mon! It's Fun

Since the **Jam Session** time is limited, we will need your song, key & instrument so we can be ready for you.

Song: _____ Key: _____ Instrument: _____

VEGETARIAN MEALS: Do you need any? _____

HOTEL: Call Harrah's Reno "Central Reservations" 1-888-726-6311, ask for Group Code **S09FOUR** for special rates.

 September 11, 2012 is the CUT OFF DAY to reserve a room at Harrah's.

REGISTRATION FEE:

\$195 per person . It was decided to not do a price increase this year to encourage attendance. **Cancellation policy:** You may cancel your Registration & receive a full refund if you do so before August 1. Cancellations between August 1 & August 31 are subject to a \$25.00 per person processing fee. **No refunds after August 31.**

TABLE SEATING: The two meals/concerts (Friday & Saturday night), seating location will be made strictly based upon when your Registration form is received. We encourage mixed seating to allow all members to meet & make new friends. However, if you prefer to sit with family or friends, your table location will **not** be set until **ALL** of your group's Registration forms have been received. **The received date of the Last person in your group determines your table location.** The person initially requesting the table is responsible for tracking his group. If we have not heard from everyone in your table group, by **August 1, 2012**, it will only include those who have registered. The missing unregistered people will be assigned to another table upon receipt of their Registration. List names of those you want at your table and please let them know. There will be eight people per table.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____

Note: if additional space needed, please enter on reverse side of this form.

PAYMENT SUMMARY:

REGISTRATION: _____ people @ \$195 each = \$ _____

COMMEMORATIVE SHIRTS: _____ shirts @ \$30 each = \$ _____

NEW MEMBERS ONLY: \$10 Membership fee, couple OR single = \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

ON-LINE registration is encouraged. Please go to our website: www.ffa2012.com

US Mail registrations: pay by credit card (see below) or by check payable to **FFS Convention 2012**, Check # _____

Payment by **Credit Card:** Visa or MasterCard may be used. CHARGE _____ VISA _____ MC _____

Card number _____ Expiration Date _____ 3 digit CVCC no. on back of card _____

Signature _____ Print Name as on Card _____

Card Holder's Address (include ZIP code) _____

Where is The Biggest Little City in the World ?



Stop, it is Reno and everyone is coming, are you? Harrah's Reno Hotel is ready to take your room reservation at 1-888-726-6311, code is **SO9FOUR**. Your registration form can be done on-line at WWW.FFS2012.COM

It is always about THE FOUR FRESHMEN and their music. Can you believe we are having 20 "strings" to go along with the FRESHMEN to celebrate our 25th Anniversary! Come for the fun and friendship and to hear "live" selections from the FRESHMEN'S new CD! Hope to see you in **Reno, Nevada, October 4-6, 2012!**

Joy Woode-Dobies
Chairperson

Four Freshmen Society 25th Anniversary Convention Schedule

Thursday, October 4, 2012

9:00am - 4:00pm

Registration - 3rd floor West Tower, Convention Foyer

9:00am - 4:00pm

113 Club/Music Mart - 3rd floor West Tower, Esmeralda Rm.

Lunch & dinner on your own

7:00pm - 10:30pm

Jam Session - 1st floor West Tower, Sammy's Show Rm.

Open seating no host cocktails

Friday, October 5, 2012

9:00am - 4:00pm

Registration - 3rd floor West Tower, Convention Foyer

9:00am - 4:00pm

113 Club/Music Mart - 3rd floor West Tower, Convention Lobby, Esmeralda Rm.

10:30am - Noon

Corporate Board/Advisory Council Meeting - 4th floor West Tower, Bill Harrah's Rm.

Lunch on your own

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Representatives Meeting - 4th floor West Tower, Bill Harrah's Rm.

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Wannabees - 4th floor West Tower, Bill Harrah's Rm.

5:30pm - 6:30 pm

Reception, no host cocktails - 3rd floor West Tower, Convention Lobby

6:30pm - 7:30pm

Sit Down Dinner (Assigned seating)- 3rd floor West Tower, Ballroom

8:05pm - 8:55 pm

First Concert - 3rd floor West Tower, Ballroom

9:15 pm - 10:30pm

Four Freshman Concert - 3rd floor West Tower, Ballroom

Saturday, October 6, 2012

9:00am - Noon

Registration - 3rd floor West Tower, Convention Foyer

9:00am - 4:00pm

113 Club/Music Mart - 3rd floor West Tower, Convention Lobby, Esmeralda Rm.

10:00am - Noon

General Membership Meeting - 4th floor West Tower, Bill Harrah's Rm.

Lunch on your own

1:00pm - 2:00pm

"Fresh Memories" with Former Freshmen, Mary Flanigan & Sue Barbour - 4th floor West Tower, Bill Harrah's Rm.

2:30pm - 3:30pm

Wannabees - 4th floor West Tower, Bill Harrah's Rm.

5:30pm - 6:30pm

Reception, no host cocktails - 3rd floor West Tower, Convention Lobby

6:30pm - 7:30pm

Sit Down Dinner (assigned seating) - 3rd floor West Tower, Ballroom

8:05pm - 10:30pm

Four Freshmen Concert with Strings - 3rd floor, West Tower, Ballroom

Four Freshmen to Play in Norman

By Hannah Cruz The Norman Transcript
Article printed 04/01/12

NORMAN - Jazzy melodies will conjure visions of famous crooners like Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin when the Four Freshmen fill the Sooner Theatre with swingy 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.

"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.

(continued on page 11)

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!!!!



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The Four Freshmen in Maryland

By John D. Fluck, FFS Maryland

On April 29th, the Four Freshmen made a too-rare appearance in the mid-Atlantic area, performing to a large, appreciative crowd at the Chesapeake Arts Center in Brooklyn Park, Maryland, a Baltimore suburb. Sponsored by the Performing Arts Association of Linthicum, the group presented more than 22 selections, ranging from old favorites to new arrangements from the *Great American Songbook*.

Looking dapper in matching pin-striped grey suits, the guys were in great voice, singing much of the concert around one microphone with just guitar and bass accompaniment. As usual, Curtis's trumpet and flugelhorn solos were both inventive and inspired, and Vince's bass and whistling solos were crowd-pleasers.

From the Four Trombones album, we heard *Angel Eyes*, *You Stepped Out of a Dream*, and *Guilty*, and selections from the Four Trumpets album included *Easy Street*, *Give Me the Simple Life*, and *Graduation Day*. The newer arrangements included *Skylark*, *Something's Gotta Give* and *That Old Feeling* from the *In Session* album, and *Star Dust*, *A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square* and *I Can't Believe That You're in Love with Me* from their forthcoming CD.

All in all, it was a lovely way to spend a pleasant Sunday afternoon, which left everyone hoping for a return engagement in the near future.

Four Freshmen in Norman (continued)

"We have some younger fans that really appreciate what we do. I like to refer to us as we're kind of like the espresso of vocal groups, meaning that sometimes it's an acquired taste," he said, laughing. "The people who appreciate our music have a more refined pallet in listening to music. Especially the younger people who really appreciate what we do."

Though much of what the group does is based off of the original group's vision, Ferreira said the four hope to continue to record music, perform live and expand their fan base.

"Any musician's goal is when they share music is to get it out to as many people as possible, and hope that they appreciate it," he said. "Not just for the money or for fame, but to make sure they are able to express their music."

Four Freshmen's Unplugged Music at Royal Room Brings Out Beauty of Vocal Arrangements.

By David A. Frye, Special To *The Daily News*

Updated: 6:01 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011 Posted: 5:42 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011

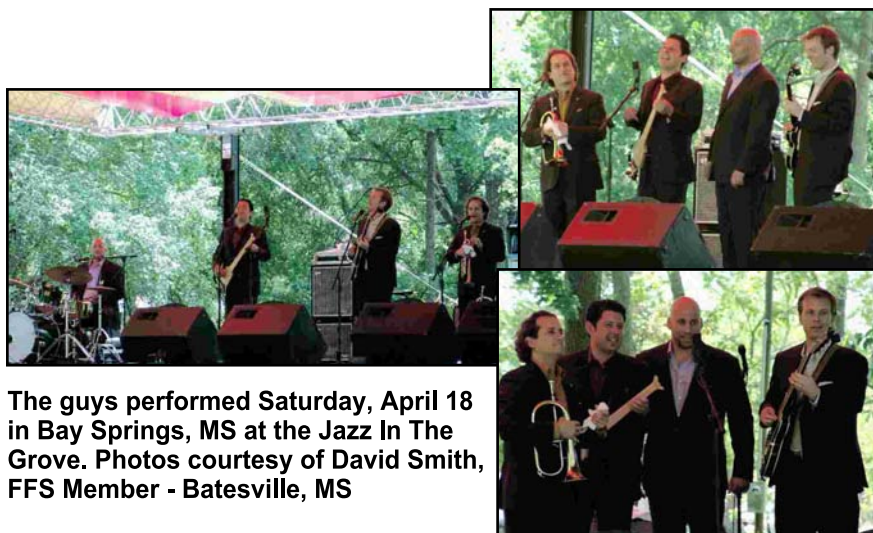
With their return to the Royal Room at The Colony Wednesday night, the Four Freshmen confirmed that the classic sound that has been making audiences beam for more than 60 years is alive and well and as fresh as ever.

The original concept of this self-contained group of four musicians, singing a super-tight, ultra-hip four-part harmony over a foundation of straight-ahead jazz, dates to 1948, and with the current bearers of the flame comfortably at the wheel, there doesn't appear to be an end in sight. The 2011 Four Freshmen - guitarist Brian Eichenberger, bassist Vince Johnson, Curtis Calderon on horn and drummer Bob Ferreira - have been performing together under the brand since 2001, and in that time they have taken the franchise to a new level by remaining true to the original while applying that gold standard to some select new material.

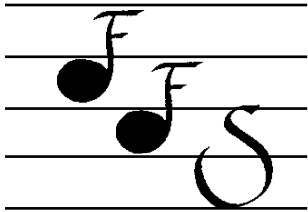
After warming up the crowd with a few standards such as *Young and Foolish* and *Angel Eyes*, the quartet changed things up in a way that was truly old school, lo-fi and borderline magical. Reconfiguring at the edge of the stage around one lone microphone, the four presented a series of its best-known numbers and some future fresh chestnuts - blending their voices and the accompaniment naturally, with just a hint of amplification. This "unplugged" effect brought out the true beauty of those classic vocal arrangements and allowed each of these journeyman musicians to shine, both individually and as a group. Trumpeter Calderon had the greatest advantage in this setting, playing completely off-mike and tastefully blending into the natural mix.

Overall the mood was light and upbeat, with some entertaining banter between the songs. On the rousing *Plenty of Money and You*, Ferreira laid down a light but solid beat by using the brushes on a music stand - trading off solo eight-counts in the middle section with Johnson, who artfully scat-sang along with his solos on an electric fretless bass.

Among the highlights were the sweet samba hit, *Poinciana*, and new arrangements by Eichenberger of two tunes that, surprisingly, were never attempted by the original Freshmen: Hoagy Carmichael's *Stardust* and the classic *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square*. Both were downright electric, inducing chills throughout the Colony crowd. Rounding out the evening were simply gorgeous readings of Freshmen signatures *It's A Blue World*, *Day By Day* and *Route 66*. Considering the overall strength of the current lineup, the combination of the Four Freshmen with the intimacy of the Royal Room is a near-perfect match.



The guys performed Saturday, April 18 in Bay Springs, MS at the Jazz In The Grove. Photos courtesy of David Smith, FFS Member - Batesville, MS



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