

Freshmen Concert April 17th in Houston, Texas

by Ann Smith, Texas Coordinator

This was a most unusual performance because it featured our recently "graduated" Freshman, Vince Johnson, singing the lead part. Vince was commandeered for this role due to the unavailability of the outgoing lead singer, Brian Eichenberger, and the incoming new lead, Tommy Boynton. Vince said that we should all thank Curtis for the support and encouragement he gave Vince, convincing him that he could sing this difficult part.

Most of us (myself included) had not seen Vince for about a year and a half (since the 2013 convention). So it was great to get to visit with him, as well as getting to hear him sing such a challenging part. Just to show what an outstanding musician Vince is, he learned his part at home and then put it together with the rest of the group during sound check, on the day of the concert.

I told Vince that his voice sounded even better in the high range than it did even in the lower range. He replied that it was hard - very hard. That was all the more to his credit.

The church where the concert was held has a huge wooden cross behind the stage area. It's at least two to three stories tall - very impressive. During the concert there were dramatic thunder storms, which lent a timpani effect to the performance. As if that wasn't enough, there was a constant light show, from the lightening flashing in the windows at the top of the huge cross.

The guys drove four hours the next day to Alexandria, LA for a private concert. Then they drove back to Houston the following day for their flight home. I don't envy them their travel schedule.

Shall we call them Temporary Group #24 1/2, since our official current group is #24?

The Four Freshmen at Suncoast, Las Vegas

by Bob Magruder

I heard the new group at the Suncoast April 4 & 5 in Las Vegas. I was breaking in a new camera but was still able to get some good shots. I intend to see the Group #24 again at the Marriott in Irvine on July 8 and hope to have mastered the camera by then. Camera technology is faster paced than my ability to keep up. I really enjoyed some of Joe Lathrop's notes in the last Fresh News and feel compelled to add just one of my own.

My wife Joan and I were pleased to be able to sponsor a Four Freshmen appearance on an April Sunday afternoon in Santa Barbara, CA. Group #20 thrilled a crowd at the Fess Parker Resort on the beach. Before the concert, the group's exemplary publicity person, Joel Rothman, had suggested I line up a live interview of the group with the local jazz-oriented radio station, KZBN. So we had all gotten into my Dodge Intrepid at the motel and ridden over to the station on East Haley Street. I had a Freshmen CD in my stereo (of course) and we had the Four Freshmen plus a fifth part harmonizing, which might have sounded close to what Brian Wilson had in mind when he put together his Beach Boys sound (but not quite). It was no doubt more memorable to me than the Four Freshmen.

I have heard the new group. Some of their arrangements and newer old

arrangements. As a lifelong fan I think everyone will be very happy. And Bob Ferreira will not have to lie as much when he introduces himself as "one of the originals."

