

Four Freshmen in Brownville, NE

by Mary Eichelberger

Kenny and I were needing a Four Freshmen "fix" when we noticed in the FreshNews they would be in Brownville, Nebraska in March on Friday the 13th. Brownville is only a 4-hour drive from our home so we reserved tickets and what an excellent decision.

The population in Brownville in 2013 was 129. Twenty-three years ago a group of locals started a "concert series" to bring artists consisting of nationally acclaimed New York Cabaret, Broadway, Jazz, Classical, Bluegrass and Rock performers to their town. They converted a church into a theater and the night we were there it was a sell-out crowd with 101 in attendance. The Four Freshmen outdid themselves and entertained us completely. They had our toes a tapping and our sense of humor tickled with their stories and antics.

The Four Freshmen were at their best. It was the first time we met Tom Boynton and he fit right in. It was about this time Curtis Calderon announced the birth of his son Atticus Alexander on February 25. (Have you seen the picture of Atticus on Facebook? He is precious!!!)

They opened with *Day In, Day Out*, followed by *Poinciana*. They then introduced us to their arrangement of *Moonglow*, followed by *Now You Know*. Then we were treated to *Pick Up Your Tears and Go Home*. We got to hear *Angel Eyes* from the Five Trombones album and *You Stepped Out* from the Live Trombone album. It was a perfect stage for an a capella number and they treated us to *Central Park West*, and *So Danco Samba*, two more new Four Freshmen arrangements.

At this time they announced that the Four Freshmen were in Brownville 20 years ago and Bob Ferreira was with the group at that time. They had recorded a PBS Special from that stage and they featured two numbers from that special: *The Day Isn't Long Enough*, and *There Will Never Be Another You*. They also sang *Social Call* featuring Tom.

After intermission they sang *Give Me the Simple Life*, *Don't Be that Way*, *Fools Rush In*, *Rain*, *Nancy With the Laughing Face* and the *Girl from Ipanema* in Spanish. Then they treated us to *Stomp'n' at the Savoy*, *Graduation Day* and *Day By Day*. The concert ended with the dedication of a couple of numbers to Bob, Ross, Don and Hal: *It's a Blue World* and *Route 66*. We were all standing and applauding so loud that they couldn't quit. For an encore they sang *In This Whole Wide World*.

As you can tell we are really glad that we made the trip to Brownville to get our Four Freshmen "fix." See you in San Antonio

Four Freshmen in Hopkins (continued from page 3)

were called onto the stage during, *Give Me the Simple Life*, and many got out their telephone cameras for many selfies....Brian Eichenberger, former lead voice and native Minnesotan, could always count on his family adding to a state gig. Now, Stein, with state ties had a dozen or two folks on hand to lead the hand clapping....FFS State Rep Anne Johnson did her usual great job to attract and inform the lobby crowd about the FFS, building a large original table sign that included photos and information on the Four Freshmen history. There were many FFS members on handMinnesota Nice: A near by restaurant provided free hors d'oeuvres for the crowd in an advertised social hour before the concert...Road trip. The group is scheduled back to play in at least four Minnesota towns the last week in September.

