



Fresh News

Volume 32, No.3

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2018



1948

Hal Kratzsch

Bob Flanigan

Ross Barbour

Don Barbour

**THE
FOUR
FRESHMEN
CELEBRATING
70
YEARS**

2018

Bob Ferreira

Tommy Boynton

Jon Gaines

Stein Malvey

Dan de la Torre

**The Four Freshmen Society
International Convention
South Bend, Indiana
Oct. 18-20, 2018**

Our
President,
**Neil
Lantz**



How About the Number "Four"?

Despite the comings and goings of countless popular vocal jazz groups over the past seven decades, none can compare with the wonderful uninterrupted record of the Four Freshmen. And, as members of the Society, we are so fortunate to be able to enjoy the long musical history of our favorite group and to have another opportunity at this year's convention to get "up close and personal" with the guys. We very much appreciate the presence and participation of Group #25 again this year and, as always, we welcome Bob, Stein, Tommy, and Jon to the 31st annual gathering of the best fan club in the world!

The more I thought about the name FOUR FRESHMEN, the more I began to recall the names of several other popular jazz and pop vocal groups that began a few years after the Freshmen and included the word or number "Four" in their names – The Four Aces (1950), Four Lads (1950), Four Coins (1952), Four Tops (1953), Four Preps (1956), Kirby Stone Four (1958), and the Four Seasons (1960). A few years later, along came the Four King Cousins (1966) and more recently Just 4 Kicks with FF alum Kirk Marcy. And, of course there are a few other vocal quartets worth mentioning, although not named the Four "somethings." Arguably, that list would include the Ames Brothers (1948), Crew Cuts (1952), Hi-Los (1953), Manhattan Transfer (1969), and the Singers Unlimited (1971). Admitting my favoritism, however, none has enjoyed the sustained success of the Four Freshmen. Unlike the Four Freshmen, many have come and gone.

My apologies if I've omitted any of your favorite "fours" of which there may be a few. However, my point is a simple one. The performance history of those listed above has been long for some, while relatively short for others. In any case, no vocal jazz/pop quartet has matched the 70 year uninterrupted performance history of the Four Freshmen! We members of the Four Freshmen Society should indeed be thankful for our wonderful memories of the Freshmen groups that have gone before and proud of our unwavering support of today's lineup, Group #25. I look forward to seeing them and you at the Convention this October in South Bend.

FN JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2018

Stages of Life

by Bob Ferreira

The Summer months always bring a sense of nostalgia and reflection for me, for it was in June of 1992 that I was flown down from Seattle to Las Vegas for a mere four hours to audition for this storied group. It was July of that same year I officially became a "Freshmen," and August 1st when I made Las Vegas my new home.

Like all my predecessors, my years in this group have been spent traveling the world in search of stages on which to perform this great music and I consider myself blessed to have entertained on some of the most beautiful, prestigious, and unique stages in the world, but what is it that really makes a stage so incredible to perform on? For me, was it the thrill of standing on the 50-yard line singing the Star Spangled Banner at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh for a Monday Night Football game? Was it the joy of experiencing the unrivaled acoustics when we performed at The Great Hall of Moscow? Was it the sizable yet intimate ambiance of the historic Chat Noir Cabaret Theater in Oslo, Norway? Perhaps it was the intensity that was felt from playing the multitude of tiny, crowded, and sometimes smoke-filled clubs like "Birdland" in Tokyo or the humble little rooms like The Jouge Gallery in the alpine-esque village of Fuchu, Japan? Or, in keeping with my Japan experiences, could it have been the sheer uniqueness of performing at a modern day version of a Geisha house in downtown Hiroshima? All these examples are just a few of the wonderful memories I have of some very unique and special moments on stage, and I didn't even really touch on all the amazing venues I have played right here in the USA! Yet, after all this the question still stands... What is it that makes a stage so incredible to perform on?

Like most things in life, answers to even the simplest of questions can or should evolve with our experiences, and one can only hope that those answers will be enriched with humble wisdom from having lived those experiences. For example, if one were to ask me 25 years ago what it was that made a concert stage so amazing to perform on I might have answered:

"I don't know. Maybe a stage that is in a grand hall and able to seat hundreds or thousands of screaming fans."

If you were to ask me the same question 15 years ago I might have answered: "You know, probably a hall that isn't necessarily huge, but has wonderful acoustics and has beautiful aesthetics."

Nowadays, if that same question were to be posed to me I would express my appreciation for a specific venue, but my general answer is simply:

"People."

This certainly touches on one of the basic premises of my previous article "APPLES AND ORANGES," so forgive the redundancy, but one thing I have certainly learned in this long road trip of mine is that no matter how large or small, reverberant or dry, ornate or utilitarian a venue may be these venues are only as good as the crews and staffs who run them and the fans who fill their seats to support them and their performances. Our core purpose as entertaining musicians is to improve the human experience through a mutual love and the ubiquitous language of music. In the big scheme of things these types of venues are built to accentuate that human experience. Without people these "grand halls" are mere empty edifices of impressive (or perhaps dismissive) architecture. I have more fond memories of the wonderful and interesting souls I have had the privilege of experiencing than I would ever have in just "Playing a beautiful hall." I have come to appreciate these interactions and developing friendships more and more as the years roll on. I have seen how the stages in my life as a Four Freshmen have evolved in unison with the stages of my life as a simple human being. My humble conclusion is that I am happy to have shared these 'stages' with so many amazing people. Whether an entertainer or accountant, a painter of portraits or painter of houses, gregarious or reclusive in nature, I hope you all hold as profound an appreciation for the 'stages' on which you have performed in your lives and hold dear all those who have made those experiences worth cherishing.

EXCITEMENT IN SOUTH BEND!



Your committee organizing the Celebrating 70 Four Freshmen Convention 2018 in South Bend, Indiana, is excited to see registrations rolling in. We have been working to assure that this convention will be a great experience for all who attend.

Of course, it's all about the Four Freshmen. They will be giving their usual Friday and Saturday night performances at South Bend's Century Center, which is connected by an inside handicap accessible overhead walkway to the Wonderful Hilton DoubleTree Hotel right in the heart of downtown South Bend. The Thursday night Jam Session

(talent show) and the Wannabes (Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons) will be held in the ballroom of the DoubleTree. A jazz band will warm up for the Freshmen on Friday night, and there will be soft jazz music during dinner both nights. Soft so that the usual reunion conversations will not have too much competition.

The tours on Friday morning and early afternoon will not conflict with any of the other activities. The Studebaker National Museum is a gem and the adjacent History Museum is very interesting with South Bend and Indiana exhibits that include the *League of Their Own* South Bend Blue Sox. Lunch at the Tippecanoe Place, which is a restaurant in the Studebaker Mansion with great food and wonderful woodwork in this expansive grand old home. The Notre Dame campus is a must see and is best done with the inexpensive tour. There is walking involved, but there is an interesting video at the start and a chance to shop at ND's excellent bookstore.

(continued on page 4)



An Invitation to FFS Japan Get-Together!

by Yas Ichiura, FFS Japan Rep

Since FFS Japan unofficially formed in 1990, we have had several get-togethers. In many cases, we were honored to have the GUYs joined us.

Let me announce that we have decided to have another FFS Japan get-together on Saturday, September 8th, 2018. Unfortunately, we won't have the GUYs with us this time.

The four-hour program will include, watching rare Four Freshmen video clips, one minute self-introduction of each attendant, Wannabe session directed by Alaki Yutaka, Four Freshmen trivia quiz and more.

So far, 22 members out of total 77 of FFS Japan informed me that they plan to attend the meeting. I would like to invite any of you to join us as well. If you are planning to visit Japan, think about joining us on September 8th in Tokyo. For more details, send a note to yasichiura@mac.com. Be prepared to speak some Japanese!

Looking forward to seeing you in Tokyo!

Four Freshmen Convention 2018 Schedule

Date	Start Time	End Time	Function	Room
10/18	9:00am	6:00pm	Registration	Lobby
	9:00am	4:00pm	113 Club	Nd/St. Mary's
	10:30am	2:00pm	FFMF Board Meeting	Indiana
	3:00pm	5:00pm	FFS Board Meeting	Indiana
	2:30pm	4:00pm	Wannabees	Salon A
		7:00pm	11:00pm	Dinner on your own Jam Session (Cash Bar)
10/19	9:00am	4:00pm	Registration	Lobby
	9:00am	4:00pm	113 Club	Nd/St. Mary's
	9:00am	4:00pm	Board Of Directors	Bethel (As Needed)
Tours	9:00am	11:00am	Notre Dame & 3 Comb.	Atrium (Assemble)
	11:30am	12:45pm	Tippecanoe (Lunch)	Atrium (Assemble)
	1:00pm	3:00pm	Studebaker Museum	Atrium (Assemble)
	2:00pm	3:30pm	Conven. Coord. Comm.	Indiana
	3:15pm	4:45pm	Wannabees	Salon A
	5:30pm	6:30pm	Cash Bar (Meet/Greet)	Discovery (C.C.)
	6:30pm	7:30pm	Dinner	Discovery (C.C.)
	7:30pm	8:15pm	Jazz Band	Discovery (C.C.)
10/20	8:30pm		Four Freshmen Afterglow	Discovery (C.C.) DoubleTree Bar
	9:00am	12:00pm	Registration	Lobby
	9:00am	4:00pm	Board Of Directors	Bethel (As Needed)
	9:00am	4:00pm	113 Club	Nd/St. Mary's
	9:00am	10:00am	State Reps Meeting	Salon A
	10:00am	11:00am	General Meeting	Salon A
	11:00am	1:00pm	Lunch On Your Own	
	1:00pm	2:30pm	Fresh Memories	Salon A
	2:30pm	3:30pm	Clifton Boyd/ FF Theory	Salon A
	3:30pm	4:30pm	Wannabees	Salon A
	5:30pm	6:30pm	Cash Bar (Meet/Greet)	Discovery (C.C.)
	6:30pm	7:30pm	Dinner	Discovery (C.C.)
	7:30pm	7:45pm	Cake And Champagne	Discovery (C.C.)
	8:15pm		Four Freshmen in Concert Afterglow	Discovery (C.C.) DoubleTree Bar

The Discovery ball room is at the South Bend Century Center, connected to the DoubleTree by accessible indoor overhead walkway. All other listed rooms are in the DoubleTree Hotel.

Excitement In South Bend (continued from page 3)

Saturday night's Freshmen concert will be preceded by birthday cake and a champagne toast to honor the 70-year anniversary of the Freshmen sound.

Downtown South Bend has excellent restaurants in easy walking distance from the DoubleTree. There is a Starbucks within the atrium of the hotel, and just down the street is the South Bend Chocolate Factory Store and Restaurant, which claims to be the "largest chocolate store in the world."

The Fresh Memories session on Saturday afternoon is a chance to hear the musicians who are the wonderful current iteration of the Four Freshmen. They will be talking about their experiences and answering our questions. In short, our excitement is justified, because the 2018

Convention promises to be a stellar event.

If you haven't already registered or made reservations at the South Bend Doubletree, please do so at your earliest convenience, because the hotel is filling up, and seating at the tables for dinner and the concerts is preferentially given by date of registration.

Share the excitement. Share the Four Freshmen experience.

Plan to come to South Bend October 18, 19 and 20. We are excited to have you with us.

The Four Freshmen Convention Committee 2018
Janet and Larry Thompson,
Convention Chairs
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**2018 FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY CONVENTION
REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

(This information gives further details regarding the Registration Form)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: **Registration begins February 1, 2018.** You may register online at **FFS2018.com** or register by mail and pay by check or credit card using the form on the following page. Please provide all requested information including preferred first **and** last names (for name badges).

TABLE ASSIGNMENTS: Please provide all names of others you want seated at your table. Encourage your preferred tablemates to mail or create online their registrations early. **Seating will be arranged by postmark date or online registration date.**

HOTEL INFORMATION: We recommend you make your hotel reservations early (even before February). Rooms at the DoubleTree will be reserved on a first-come, first served basis. Rates for the convention are guaranteed for \$129 plus tax per night for two queen beds or a king bed. These rates will be available also for three days before and three days after the convention dates of October 18, 19, and 20, 2018.

TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM: Call DoubleTree reservations at (574) 234-2000. Be sure to mention the Four Freshmen Convention.

COMMEMORATIVE SHIRTS: The shirts are **kelly green** collared golf style Ladies' and Men's sizes with our 2018 convention logo and "Celebrating 70" embroidered on the upper chests. They are made by "Port Authority" in 65%polyester and 35% cotton. Only a few shirts will be available for sale at the convention, so you are encouraged to order with your registration.

JAM SESSION (MEMBERS' TALENT NIGHT): A great evening of jazz. A talented local jazz group will anchor the evening's festivities as past and current Freshmen and convention attendees perform. Please indicate your song, key, and instrument on the registration form so that the group will be prepared to accompany your song. At the end of the evening, all participants will jam together with the group.

TOURS: (Friday, 19 OCT) Tour#1 (\$15/person) embarks from the hotel at 12:45p by bus to the South Bend Museum Campus, including the **STUDEBAKER NATIONAL MUSEUM**, the History Museum, and the first floor of Copshaholm, the Oliver Mansion. The bus returns to the hotel at 3:00p

Tour #2 (\$25/person) embarks from Notre Dame or the hotel at 11:15a to **TIPPECANOE PLACE** (The J.M. Studebaker mansion) **for LUNCH** 11:30s-1:00p. Bus leaves at 1:00p for the hotel or for the South Bend Museum Campus.

Tour #3 (\$10/person) embarks from the hotel at 8:45a by bus for the **NOTRE DAME CAMPUS (primarily a bus tour with some walking required)** The bus will return to the hotel about 11:15a to drop off those not taking the lunch tour. Those taking the lunch tour will stay on the bus to go on to Tippecanoe Place.

One may opt for either tour with or without lunch. Both tours and lunch together will be discounted to \$45/person. All gratuities are included in the price of each tour.

MENU VARIATIONS: Please specify whether you require vegetarian or other specifics for lunch or evening meals.

REGISTRATION FEES: Early registration, prior to August 1, is encouraged and must be accompanied by payment. The earlier you register, the better your dinner table seat. Every effort will be made to accommodate late registrations, but priority dinner seating cannot be guaranteed.

PAYMENT SUMMARY: Please complete all information on the Registration Form and forward your payments. You may pay by check or with Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover. Please note that you must add a \$6.00 per person fee when using credit cards for payment of the registration fee. **ONLY MEMBERS** of the Four Freshmen Society may attend this convention. Non-members will be able to join the FFS for of \$15 (single or couple—please indicate). Feel free to duplicate the registration form for your non-member friends who may be interested in attending.

TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL: There is a free shuttle to and from the South Bend International (SBN) Airport. Rental cars and taxi service are also available at the airport. Call the hotel to let them know your arrival time.

HOTEL PARKING: Parking is free for hotel guests **with in and out privileges.**

2018 FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY CONVENTION
South Bend, Indiana October 18-20, 2018

Flying in? _____ Driving in? _____

Send form to: Janet & Larry Thompson
1311 E Erskine Manor Hill
South Bend, IN 46614-2186

Questions? (574) 291-1304

Please Print:

Name(s) _____
(first name) (last name) (first name) (lastname)

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Telephone # (____) _____

E-mail _____

COMMEMORATIVE SHIRT: \$30 EACH.

(Enter NUMBER of shirts wanted by size and gender)

Men () small () med () large () XL () XXL () XXXL

Women () small () med () large () XL () XXL () XXXL

JAM SESSION: Plan to perform at Thursday night Talent/jam session? _____ Yes _____ No

Song _____ Key _____ Vocal ? _____ or Instrument? _____

MENU SELECTIONS: Do you need vegetarian meals? How many Friday _____ Saturday _____

HOTEL INFORMATION: Have you made reservations at the DoubleTree? Yes _____ No _____

FFS Convention rates are \$129/night and also apply to rooms for three days before or after. (See
Registration Information other side of this page or on the FFS2018.com website)

REGISTRATION FEE: **POSTMARKED (or online) Feb 1 to August 1st - \$195 per person**

POSTMARKED (or online) after August 1st - \$215 per person

Cancellations Full refund before August 15th. \$25 processing fee between August 15th and September 30th.

NO REFUNDS AFTER October 1st!

TABLE SEATING; Tables of eight. List names of those you want at your table. **SEATING IS ARRANGED BY
REGISTRATION POSTMARKED DATE OR ONLINE DATE OF LAST MEMBER OF YOUR PARTY.**

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

	People
TOURS: Tour #1- Studebaker/History Museums \$15 _____ (limited, reserve early!)	
#2- Lunch at Tippecanoe Place \$25 _____ (limited, reserve early!)	
#3- Notre Dame University Campus \$10 _____ (limited, reserve early!)	
#4- The above 3 tours together \$45 _____ (limited, reserve early!)	

PAYMENT SUMMARY:

REGISTRATION: \$195 (or \$215 after August 1st) _____ people @ \$_____ each = _____

Add \$6/person if paid by credit card _____ people @ \$6 each = _____

COMMEMORATIVE SHIRTS: men's _____ women's _____ @ \$30 each = _____

TOURS: Count tours above, multiply by amounts, enter total here: = _____

NEW MEMBERS ONLY: Four Freshmen Society Membership \$15 = _____

(\$15 fee applies to couple or single *not already members*) = _____

Total: = _____

PAYMENT BY CHECK IS ENCOURAGED: Please make checks payable to
FFS CONVENTION 2018 and send to address above.

Credit Card: Amex _____ Discover _____ Mastercard _____ Visa _____.

Card Number _____ Expiration Date ____/____

Signature _____ Print Name as on Card _____

Beginning February 1, 2018 registration may be done online at: FFS2018.com

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Fresh News is published quarterly © 2018, 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:

Barb Meyers, bam241136@gmail.com, Cell 419-309-7855

FFS New Member/or Renewal Form

Name _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

(9 digit zip please)

Telephone # _____

Fax # _____

E-mail _____

New Member Fee: \$15 Single or Couple (worldwide)

All Renewals: One Year \$25

Two or more years \$20 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 online at dues.fourfreshmensociety.com

New Members

Lindsey & Alex Alm, Miami, FL

Bill Knight, Kenvil, NJ

Arnold & Beatrice Bailey, N Smithfield, RI

Louise & Sam Marasso, Riverside, CT

Jean Borden, Sun City, CA

Paul & Polly Odegaard, Jupiter, FL

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Norm & Mary Smith, Golden, CO

Otto & Marcia Karow, Sharonville, OH

Frank & Sarah Wagner, New Orleans, LA

Neil Kessler, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Neil & Jill White, Tupelo, MS

Contributors

Milton White, Sun City, AZ

The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Item	Cost	QTY	Total
5 Trombones/5 Trumpets	\$15.00		
50 Years Fresh	\$15.00		
Capitol Collector Series	\$15.00		
Culmination - Greg Stegeman (*)	\$15.00		
Faux Freshmen - Scratchin' the Surface	\$10.00		
Faux Freshmen - Seasons of the Heart	\$10.00		
Faux Freshmen - Unsung	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen (Jazz Factory)	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen and Friends	\$15.00		
Freshmas	\$15.00		
Freshmen Year/Voices in Latin	\$15.00		
Golden Anniversary	\$15.00		
Graduation Day	\$15.00		
In Session	\$15.00		
Ken Albers Arrangements	\$28.00		
Live at Butler	\$15.00		
Live at Clearwater	\$15.00		
Live at Constitution Hall 1979 (Previously Unissued)(*)	\$15.00		
Live at Penn State (*)	\$15.00		
Live at the Franklin	\$15.00		
Live from Vegas CD	\$15.00		
Live from Vegas DVD	\$15.00		
Live from Vegas (DVD & CD)	\$25.00		
Live in Holland	\$15.00		
Live in the New Millenium	\$15.00		
Live Trombones	\$15.00		
Lost Soul - Curtis Calderon	\$15.00		
Love Songs	\$15.00		
More 5 Trombones/In Person Vol. 2	\$15.00		
Remembering Ken (*)	\$15.00		
Return to Romance/Live in Manchester (*)	\$15.00		
Road Shows	\$15.00		
Road to Portsmouth (*)	\$15.00		
Snowfall	\$15.00		
Star Spangled Banner - Single CD	\$5.00		
Star Spangled Banner - Five Pack	\$20.00		
Still Fresh	\$15.00		
The Liberty Years	\$15.00		
Through the Years (*)	\$15.00		
Voices in Brass/In Person Vol. 1	\$15.00		
Voices in Standards	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen and Friends LP	\$20.00		
"Now You Know" (Leather Bound Book)	\$100.00		
Book is \$120 for orders outside US			

Please use "Return Address" label when available - Thanks

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

Email: _____

Name on Card: _____

Visa ____ MC ____ AMEX ____ Disc ____

CC #: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date: ____/____/____

Please Complete: then

1) mail to: FFS Music Mart
Barbara Emerson, Director
74 Doncaster Lane
Bluffton, SC 29909

or

2) fax: 866-538-9044

or

3) call 843-271-6001
or 888-448-7429

or

4) email: johnejazz@sc.rr.com

Make check payable to:

The Four Freshmen Society, Inc.

In 1979, the Airmen of Note under the direction of Dave Steinmeyer had a concert at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. They had, as their guests, The Four Freshmen (group 6). That concert was preserved from the sound board by Dave Barnes. It was then cleaned up by Paul Halac. The result was a "new" CD of the Four Freshmen Live at Constitution Hall in 1979, backed by the Airmen of Note, the premier jazz ensemble of the U.S. Air Force. The Music Mart has embarked on a plan to find and release these rare recordings, particularly in years when there is no new CD from the Freshmen themselves. While the Society has done this in the past, we will now try to be more aggressive in this endeavor. We hope to have a "new" CD ready for each convention. We hope you enjoy this new material. Barbara Emerson

Subtotal

Shipping - \$1 per CD for US orders

\$4 per LP for US orders

Foreign Country: actual shipping costs for CDs and LPs, \$20 for "Now You Know" book

Total

(* Available to Members Only)

A Model of Efficiency

by Stein Malvey

When I'm off the road, I run a tight ship. I like to make lists. I like to plan my days. For example, here's my morning schedule from the other day:

- 7:30am** Turn off alarm, go back to sleep.
- 9:30am** Wake up, read stuff on phone.
- 9:45am** Realize I have to be somewhere, jump out of bed.
- 9:48am** Coffee.
- 10:15am** Leave the house.
- 10:17am** Sit in traffic, ponder life choices.
- 10:22am** Look for alternate routes, tell Waze I'm a "passenger." It always falls for it.
- 10:46am** Realize the thing is actually tomorrow.
- 10:47am** Curse repeatedly.
- 10:50am** Stop for more coffee, review accuracy of To Do list. Possibly more cursing, most of which is not out loud.
- 11:00am** Head back home.
- 11:18am** Miss my exit. Curse out loud, but without much enthusiasm.
- 11:28am** Pull into driveway, remember errands I forgot to run while out.
- 11:29am** Sigh of resignation.
- 11:32am** More coffee.
- 11:50am** Survey cupboards, realize I need groceries.
- 11:52am** Look inside refrigerator, hoping to see something edible I had not noticed the previous three times I opened the door.
- 11:55am** Call Bob. When he answers, hang up immediately.
- 11:56am** Answer call from Bob. Ask him why he's calling.
- 12:00pm** Plan the afternoon's activities/knock off for the day.

A Special Concert

by Bob Ferreira

If you read my other article in this issue entitled "Stages Of Life" then you are aware of just a few of the interesting venues I have played over the years, and you may also know that my conclusion on what makes a venue so great is less the historic significance or prestige of the bricks and mortar, but more the quality of the people associated with those venues. Well, the concert we performed back on May 25th was exemplary both in uniqueness of venue and quality of people who both attended and made the show possible.

We had an amazing evening of music and friendship as we played a jet hangar (YES! A JET HANGAR!) at the Roseburg Regional Airport in Roseburg, Oregon for our very dear friend, Gil Peterson. This concert was more a celebration of life, love, and friendship than anything else and all 130 people who attended were there to celebrate every bit of those three things. For the four of us it was unique in the way that we have not performed in many airplane hangars over the years (But, believe it or not, we HAVE indeed performed in a few!), but it was more the fact that we got to perform in perfect line of sight to an immaculately shined up Dassault Falcon Jet owned and provided for eye candy by Mr. Bill and Patti Woods, the couple was kind enough to loan out their jet hangar for us to perform in.

What was even more amazing than the unique venue, the exquisite aircraft, the excellent stage and sound, the open bar (How does it really get better than that?! HA!) was, of course, everyone who came together to make this special show possible. I wish I could name everyone, but I fear I would miss someone so I would just like to express my gratitude to all the sponsors, the amazing sound crew, the other outstanding musicians who performed earlier in the evening, to all the gracious and loving people who helped or contributed of their time and expertise in some way as well as to all those who simply attended to enjoy an evening of music and friends.

Mostly, I would like to thank our very dear friend, Gil Peterson, for making it all happen in the first place. His love for this group is only outshined by his general kindness and caring towards all with whom he comes in contact. Gil is that special kind of person you simply do not forget once you have met him. He's the kind of humble guy that has a million interesting and captivating stories about his life that he will never share with you unless you press him. I can already feel Gil getting flushed from reading this! Sorry Gil!

In our show we were able to perform two brand new arrangements during the course of the evening for our good friend, Gil. One arrangement, specially requested by Gil himself, is a Greg Stegeman arrangement of an old Barbara Streisand hit entitled *With One More Look At You*. This song is very special to Gil and we were so happy that we could debut it for him at this special concert.

I personally love the idea of being able to do shows for our friends. Whether it's in a banquet hall, for a wedding, backyard bar-b-que, or even in a jet hangar! We will always set out to show how much we appreciate you all.

Let's Have a Little FUN!

Let's have a contest to see who can send me a funny picture that you have taken of the Four Freshmen starting now. I hope you can catch them unaware, unlike the picture you see here that they posed for – my fault.

Eric, Donna, Chaz and I will be the judges. Whoever wins will have their picture as the cover of Fresh News next July.

— Barb Meyers, Editor.



Autie Goodman, an Interesting Member of the Four Freshmen

by David Bentley

There have been 25 men who have called themselves “Freshmen”. Some were called Bob, Ross, Ken, Bill, Rod and Mike, to name a few. One was called Autie, and about this iconic man I write.

Autie Goodman, a native of Burns, Oregon, has been a musician since he was an early teenager, first the clarinet, then the sax. Music was in his bones, and as he says “It’s the only thing I’ve ever done.”

Autie was with Paula Kelley & the Modernaires before joining the Freshmen, and later joined a hotel show band working in Las Vegas.

He joined the Four Freshmen in 1977 at the invitation of legendary Bob Flanigan, to replace Ross Barbour, when Ross decided to hang up his vocal chords. He brought a new instrumental sound to the group, that of saxophone.

Autie sat perched on a high stool for his drumming... this is one multi-talented guy... and had a special sax stand so he could grab that instrument quickly for solos. The combination of saxophone and the then keyboards was mellow and musical.

Autie sang solos, took on the difficult second tenor part in the group and contributed in a very personal and professional way to the group’s continuing success. He was liked within and without.

Autie was a typical road warrior. He wasn’t a partier, nor a drinker or smoker. Instead, he ran to keep himself in shape. Flanigan watched this, but did not participate. Autie and Bob developed a winning repartee on stage, and in many cases, had the audience howling with laughter. Autie’s humor was dead pan, and Flanigan played off that. Something similar to what Flanigan and Ross Barbour had, but the hats with Autie were reversed. When Bob Flanigan retired in 1993, Autie followed suit. Flanigan was his idol and he couldn’t imagine performing with anyone else.

Autie lives in Pahrump, Nevada with wife Perry and son Terry.

THANK YOU!

by Ray Gardner

Two words that perfectly explain a wonderful Sunday afternoon in a not-so-sunny Florida. Another packed house enjoyed the magnificent sights and sounds of the twenty-fifth group of the Fantastic Four Freshmen inside a lovely auditorium – the Glenridge Performing Arts Center in Sarasota, FLA.

Thanks to the good lady for driving us nearly 270 miles round trip. We were superbly entertained by Bob Ferreira, Jonathan Gaines, Stein Malvey and Tommy Boynton. My vocabulary is far too inadequate to properly describe the God-given talents displayed by these four gentlemen over a two-hour span. We were informed by a Society Member that lead vocalist Tommy Boynton had completely lost his voice for two days. But you’d never have known it because – as always – he was at the top of his game with both the melody AND bass guitar lines. Also delivering another sterling performance on guitar, Stein perfectly plucked those strings melodically methodical as Jonathan once again proved to be a great performer on both trumpet and flugelhorn. It goes without saying that percussionist and superb soloist Bob Ferreira was incredible as always. Bob is now in his 25th year and was both great and gracious as he informed the audience that the Four Freshmen would be celebrating their 70th year in September.

As it turned out, the seats we thought we had - we didn’t. But we did get to sit on an extra row of folding chairs about half-way up and on level with the stage. My only difficulty was attempting to write in the dark. Here are

the song titles I was able to write down as Group #25 performed their first set: *Day In, Day Out*; *Give Me The Simple Life*; *You Stepped Out Of A Dream*; *Johnny Hartman’s Fools Rush In*; and *There Will Never Be Another You*.

Returning to the stage they continued with both newer as well as older songs such as the neat tune *Ain’t Seen Nothin’ Like You* followed by *Basin Street Blues*. Bob related the story about a very popular song recorded the first time in 1956 – *Graduation Day*. Next they launched into two popular Latin tunes recently recorded by them – *So Danco Samba* and *Girl From*

Ipenema. They followed those up with the beautiful ballads, *It’s Alright With Me* and *When I Fall In Love*.

They performed a sparkling version of *Alright - OK - You Win*; *Day By Day*; *Route 66* and then performed *Poinciana* as their encore. Bob mentioned the fact that they will soon be in San Antonio, Texas visiting Curtis Calderon. They will also be in South Bend, Indiana when the Society hosts their 31st annual reunion. They exited the stage to a standing ovation and then – as always – graciously came into the front foyer to meet and greet their hundreds of fans.

Many Four Freshmen Society Members like Barbara and Mel Meyers, Dave Blackwell, Marlene Lobsiger, Bob and Candi Suhrheinrich and others were in attendance. Sadly, I was unable to get all the names written down. Barbara Meyers handles the *FreshNews* for the Society and she will provide additional information on the upcoming October Convention in South Bend, Indiana. I highly recommend – if possible – you attend. This is a great opportunity to enjoy three or four days of wonderful entertainment and proximity to the Four Freshmen – a group I’ve fondly always called “The World’s Greatest Jazz Vocal Recording Artists in the History of Music!”

So to each and every person who enjoyed this performance just let me add my personal THANK YOU!



Ponca City Performance

by Pat and Doug Lyon

On April 29th we drove from Wichita to Ponca City, Oklahoma to hear the Four Freshmen in concert at the Movie House on Grand Ave.

It was a wonderful show with the guys giving us lots of great Four Freshmen harmony that we love so well. It was a full house with good response. The interface with the crowd was a highlight.

We have had a Four Freshmen car tag for over 20 years and spread the good news where ever we go. After the show we asked the Four Freshmen to join us for a picture outside the movie theater. When they saw our tag they were happy to pose.



Join the FFS Group on Facebook!

by Jonathan Gaines

We recently started up a Facebook group for the Four Freshmen Society! It has quickly grown into an active and vibrant community of jazz and harmony lovers, fans of the Four Freshmen, and all sorts of people who love to share and talk about great music. After just a month, it has grown to nearly 500 members, with over 60 posts, hundreds of comments from members, and thousands of likes and other reactions to the content shared!

Why join? Instead of just seeing each other once a year at the convention and occasionally at shows, members of the FFS group can discuss their love of the music year round! People regularly share links to recordings they love, pictures from shows, and old videos they found of the Freshmen. We also start up discussions about various Four Freshmen and musical topics such as "What's the best live musical performance you've ever been to?" or "What's a song that you'd love for the Four Freshmen to arrange?" In general, it's just a fun space to share and discover great music and interact with other people who love it too.

The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

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

For bookings: International Ventures Incorporated

Dale Sheets & Dina Sheets-Roth

P.O. Box 256, McGregor, TX 76657

Phone: 661-259-4500

Email: info@ivimanagement.com

Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

July 15, 2018

Salem, OH

Orshan Memorial Civic Center Band Shell, Waterworth Park at Sunset Blvd.

Showtime: 6:00p

Tickets: FREE!

July 17, 2018

Cleveland Heights, OH

NightTown, 12387 Cedar Rd.

Showtime: 6:00p and 8:00p

Tickets: 216-795-0550

July 19, 2018

Lakeside, OH

Lakeside Chautauqua, 236 Walnut Ave.

Showtime: 8:15p

Tickets: 419-798-4461

July 21, 2018

Petoskey, MI

A benefit concert. Limited seating

Showtime: 8:00p

Details: www.stmichaelpetoskey.com

July 25-28, 2018

Grosse Pointe, MI

Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval

Show time: 6:00p and 8:30p

Tickets: 313-882-5299

August 8, 2018

Newport Beach, CA

Sunset Jazz at Newport, Rose Garden at Newport Beach

Marriott Hotel & Spa

Showtime: 6:00p

Tickets: 949-759-5003

August 10-11, 2018

Las Vegas, NV

South Point Hotel & Casino, 9777 Las Vegas Blvd. South

Showtime: 7:30p

Tickets: 702-796-7111

August 24, 2018

Noblesville, IN

Federal Hill Commons Amphitheater, 175 Logan St.

Showtime: 7:00p

Tickets: 317-776-6350

August 25, 2018

Columbus, IN

Columbus North High School, 1400 25th St.

Showtime: 7:30p

Tickets: 812-376-2638

August 31, 2018

Mackinac Island, MI

Grand Hotel Labor Day Jazz Weekend, 286 Grand Ave.

Showtime: TBA

Box Office: 800-33 grand

September 1, 2018

Franklin, NC

Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, 1024 Gerorgia Rd.

Showtime: 7:30p

September 3, 2018

Detroit, MI

Detroit Jazz Festival, Hart Plaza, 1 Hart Plaza

Showtime: TBD

Tickets: 313-469-6564

September 7-8, 2018

San Francisco, CA

Feinstein's at the Nikko, 222 Mason St.

Showtime: 8:00p

Tickets: 866-663-1063 or www.ticketfly.com

Why is this group important? Building an active and growing community on social media will help increase awareness of the Society, and attract new members. We're also hoping that this will help us interact with younger fans and music lovers by connecting with them. And it's a great way to build and perpetuate community among existing members!

How do I join? If you have a Facebook account, just go to www.facebook.com/fourfreshmensociety and click Join! You can also invite your friends to join by adding their names in "Add members" on the right hand side. Help us grow this new online community, and share your love of music with us!

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If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please go to FourFreshmenMusicFoundation.org or contact FFMF Treasurer Dave Bentley dbentley@optonline.net, 203-972-1916.

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