



# Fresh News

Volume 35, No.3

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2021





Our  
President,  
**Donna  
Gallaway**



**GREETINGS  
FFS MEMBERS &  
FRESH FANS EVERYWHERE**

Summer has arrived here in the United States with much promise of a more normal lifestyle than we were dealing with a year ago. Gradually, we are adjusting to the idea of shopping without masks, eating inside restaurants (which seem to be understaffed for the most part) and simply able to be in places where there are relatively large numbers of people who are not staying six feet apart! I still keep masks in my car and purse as you never know when a business may require one to enter. We are pretty much open in the state of Ohio, thankfully.

Having recently flown to and from Orlando, I can assure you that people are not staying home anymore. Folks are getting out there as indicated by the busy airports and full planes I experienced. It seemed to be just like it was before the pandemic.

I sincerely hope that you, your family and friends have managed to stay healthy through this stressful time. We all know some who have suffered greatly through loss of loved ones or serious illness, and our hearts go out to them.

On another note, the good news is that The Four Freshmen are able to start performing live shows again, and they have begun working on a new recording which we, as great fans, have underwritten by our generous donations. We will have new Fresh music available soon from Bob, Tommy, Jake and Ryan!

We are also continuing to plan the next annual convention/reunion for June 2022. We will be together again in Bay City, Michigan after two years of no gatherings. I promise this will be a very special one, so start planning now to be there! I look forward to seeing all of you in Michigan.

# UPDATE!

by Gil Peterson

Greetings to all,

I hope you are all having a healthy and safe summer. This past year has been extremely difficult for everyone. It looks like there may be a light at the end of the tunnel. COVID has had a devastating impact, especially on all musical performing groups, since there was nowhere for them to perform. However, The Four Freshmen have endured. It appears that things are beginning to open up and group #27 is ready and eager to hit the road again.

I have been able to arrange for them to perform here in Roseburg, Or. on July 20th and 21st. The concert on the 20th will be at "Music on the Half Shell", open to the public, and on the 21st they will perform at an invitation only event at my residence. We are all very excited to hear group #27. There will be a number of FFS members in attendance for both concerts. Wish you could all join us. I will give you an update after the events.

I recently spoke with Jim Williams, our Chairman of the Bay City convention, and he informed me that everything is still in place and ready to go. Jim has not been in the best of health, but he has done a remarkable job of holding everything together. We are slightly less than twelve months away from convention time. Start making your plans now. The weather should be terrific and this convention is certainly one you do not want to miss. All the registration information will be forthcoming in the January edition of the *Fresh News*.

We all sincerely thank you, Jim, for an outstanding job of planning under extreme circumstances. I am looking forward to seeing you all there. Best fresh wishes!

## Nancy Albers

by Sue Barbour

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you that Nancy Albers passed away on May 31st. She was born February 28th, 1934. Nancy and Ken Albers met while The Four Freshmen were playing a show at The Crest in Detroit, Michigan. Ken Albers was a very important member of The Four Freshmen from 1956-1977. He wrote arrangements, sang bass, and played those beautiful trumpet and flugelhorn solos.

Nancy and Ken had three children: Marti, Ritchie and Joey. Joey passed away from a heart attack in his 40s. We are grateful that Nancy is at peace though we will miss her dearly.



## News from the editor.

*We are seeking those of you who want to tell their story about*

*“How I first Heard the Four Freshmen.”*

*I will publish them in future Fresh News depending on room.*

# How I First Heard The Four Freshmen

by Bill Martin

I could certainly relate to Chaz Cone's experience (*Fresh News* July-August-September 2020) when he first exposed his mother's ears to The Four Freshmen sound, where she responded, “They sing off-key.”

When I became a teen, I discovered the sound of George Shearing and began playing his arrangements. If I was playing one when a neighbor dropped in, I would hear my mother apologetically say, “Billy isn't playing wrong chords—that's the way the music is written.”

When I was still a teen, I started playing piano with a local orchestra. It was then I discovered Stan Kenton. I had never heard such a big sound—The Four Freshmen. My orchestra leader played trombone, so he purchased the LP “Four Freshmen and Five Trombones.” The song I first heard from that album was *Speak Low*. I immediately knew that gorgeous sound would be with me for life.

In my early twenties, I was hired by an engineering firm in Columbus, Ohio. It was a big city with lots to do, but every weekend I was traveling back to Kentucky to visit my family and bride-to-be, Phyllis. We married in February, 1958. No longer was I traveling much, so I got to read a Columbus newspaper and find out what the city had to offer on the weekends. You can imagine my excitement when I came across an ad that announced a concert with George Shearing, Stan Kenton, and The Four Freshmen.

(continued on page 5)

By Vern Keeling, Liverpool UK

I have my older brother, Graham, to thank for bringing The Four Freshmen into my life, when one of my ears was tuned into his music coming across from the AFN (Air Forces Network in Germany) during the mid-fifties, when I was in early teens. The top American vocalists shared the airwaves with the likes of Kenton, Shearing, Brubeck, the Hi-Los and The Four Freshmen.

November 1962 was the first time I saw The Four Freshmen - group #4. They appeared at the Liverpool Empire with Stan Kenton and June Christy. I was completely blown away. The show was on for two nights in Liverpool; Graham and his wife Ellen had tickets for the Saturday performance while my three friends and I went to the Sunday show.

Sadly, I had to wait another thirty years to see them again. This time it was group #17 when Bob Flanigan courageously appeared despite being in poor health.

I make this point because of a truly remarkable happening. My wife, Pam, and I were sitting in the back row of the balcony with Graham and Ellen and on my left was an American couple. At the end of the performance, the gentleman asked me how we came to know of The Four Freshmen. He surprised us by asking if we would like to meet them. We didn't have an opportunity to introduce ourselves to the gentleman before he whisked us up to the area off which were the performers' dressing rooms. He then disappeared down a corridor. Moments later, he reappeared with Bob, who graciously shook our hands and posed for a group photograph. WOW!

Since then, Pam and I have timed our regular Florida vacations to coincide with The Four Freshmen performances. In 2009, we travelled from Orlando to Fort Pierce where I registered with The Four Freshman Society, then Plant City in 2010, followed a year later by Palm Coast and finally a memorable 2012 Christmas-feel dinner show at The Colony Hotel in Palm Beach.

On our 2010 vacation, we travelled down from our lakeside villa in Wellington Lakes, Fort Myers Beach to the Red Rose Hotel just off the Int.

4 at Plant City, where we were staying over after the show. As we were bringing our bags into the reception, we literally bumped into Bob Ferreira on his way to the dining room. When I recognised him and said “Hi,” he made us so welcome.

We plan to return to Florida in 2021, God willing. So hopefully, we will, once again catch up with our favourite group.

**We can't wait.**





# Looking Forward to 2022

By Jim Williams

Bay City is located on the east side of Michigan's lower peninsula near the base of the Saginaw Bay on Lake Huron. The city, along with nearby Midland and Saginaw, form the Great Lakes Bay Region. Bay City's proximity to Saginaw Bay made it the center of Michigan's storied lumber industry. Stately homes of former lumber barons still line Center Avenue.

The Saginaw River runs through the city. There are river walks on both sides of the river allowing for pleasant leisurely strolls. Marinas up and down the river serve all kinds of pleasure-boaters from sailors seeking the wind to power-boaters out for a cruise. Only Florida has more pleasure boats than Michigan.

From a fresh-catch seafood restaurant on the water to an authentic churrascaria (Brazilian steakhouse) new to Uptown, get ready to experience bright, bold flavors — and the unbeatable views to match! Choose from 54 craft brews on tap and American gastropub classics with a twist while you take in views of waterfront Wenonah Park at Tavern 101, or experience a bistro inside Bay City's original City Hall with 150+ wines from around the globe. See sushi hand-rolled before your eyes at Fusion 1 Cafe, try poké bowls and bubble tea at Sushi Remix, or sample fresh, local eats at our new City Market.

The Doubletree Hotel, site of the 2022 Four Freshmen Society Convention, sits adjacent to the river, with easy access to the East side river walk. Experience some of the best antique shopping in Michigan — including Michigan's largest antique center — and pop into dozens of other boutiques and eateries peppered from Uptown to Downtown, most of which are in easy walking distance from the hotel.

I know you will find an enthusiastic welcome when you visit. Both the Hotel and the Great Lakes Bay Region Bureau of Tourism, who are looking forward to you being here, have promised to do everything they can to make your time here, not only pleasant, but memorable. More to come. By the way, The Four Freshmen will be here!



# It's a Small World After All

by Mel and Barb Meyers

Much to my surprise this poster appeared on the Four Freshmen Society website. Mel and I attended this Concert. Mel got home from his service in the Army at the end of Aug. 1958. We had our second child in Sept. 1958. The Army was gracious enough to let him come home early for that event. When we saw this concert advertised we were determined to go no matter what. It was the Four Freshmen after all, and the added bonus for us was Dave Brubeck and Maynard Ferguson. You might ask how we can remember this so long ago? It was an awesome concert and the first big outing we attended in a very long time. To the member who posted this, thank you it brought back a lot of memories.



# The Four Freshmen RECORDING in New Canaan, CT

By Dave Bentley

The Four Freshmen came to New Canaan, CT on 5 June, and stayed until the 9th. During those 5 days they met with our Executive Producers group, BHW, and rehearsed for a total of ten hours. In between discussions on recording production and rehearsing vocals, there was opportunity to, as Flanigan would have said "have a taste." The boys worked hard at their sound, and they have a very identifiable sound indeed. Newly minted Ryan Howe loves singing the top part, and his tone marries well for the ensemble blend. It was exciting to hear them, and to see their enthusiasm. As I told them on a number of occasions, in all my years of knowing The Four Freshmen, this is the only group I have witnessed who truly got along with no hidden agendas. Wonderful to witness. Plans now call for a week's rehearsal in Minneapolis mid August, and sometime in the Fall, the actual recording production. Stay tuned, as this will be an exciting recording.

# Did you get it right away? I DID

by Tom Kilbride, a fan since 1953, Waco, TX

Maybe it's the crazy year 2020 was, or a result of having too much time for thinking, but I've come to the conclusion that it's time to change the name of our organization (again).

Think about the first time you heard The Four Freshmen. Did you "get it" right away? I did, but there are people who listen and say things like, "They're singing off key," or "That hurts my ears," or "They certainly aren't The Four Coins."

So I'm thinking, why are people not hearing what I'm hearing? What's wrong with them?

Now I know there are those who have to grow into "getting it" by repetitive exposure, and God bless them, but those of us who "got it" on the first try are special. That's why we're as devoted to The Four Freshmen music as we are.

So here's the deal: We are special people because we have a special listening apparatus (two actually) that lets us hear what others cannot. We are fortunate to have come into the world this way. We didn't study for it, we didn't train for it, we were just lucky enough to be born with it. Therefore, I propose that we drop the current organization's name and call ourselves The Lucky Ear Club.

All those in favor, say aye!

## Order Your 4F Mask Today!



The masks come in black or grey with The Four Freshmen logo.

They are three layers of 100% cotton.

Cost is \$10 each.

Limited quantity, so order now!

Go to:  
Fourfreshmen.com/shop



## The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

Check the Website: [fourfreshmensociety.com](http://fourfreshmensociety.com) or [fourfreshmen.com](http://fourfreshmen.com) for updates

For bookings: International Ventures Incorporated

Dina Sheets-Roth

P.O. Box 256, McGregor, TX 76657

Phone: 661-259-4500

Email: [ivimanagement@me.com](mailto:ivimanagement@me.com)

Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

**Due to the current health restrictions, please be sure to keep up with the status of concerts online at [fourfreshmensociety.com](http://fourfreshmensociety.com).**

### July 20, 2021

### Roseburg, OR

Music on the Half Shell, Stewart Park

Show time: 7:00p

Tickets: FREE!

### August 9-10, 2021

### Irvine, CA

Sunset Jazz at Bistango Palm Patio, 19100 Von Karman Ave

Show time: 6:00p-8:30p Tickets: 949-759-5003

### October 21, 2021

### Lawrenceburg, TN

Crockett Theatre, 203 North Military Ave

Show time: 7:00p

Tickets: 961-762-4231

### December 3, 2021

### Kerrville Bay, TX

Kathleen C. Cailloux City Center

for the Performing Arts, 910 Main St

Show time: TBA

Tickets: 830-896-9393

### December 5, 2021

### Horseshoe Bay, TX

Quail Point

Show time: 4:30p

Tickets: TBA

### December 7, 2021

### Fort Myers, FL

Tribby Arts Center, 17821 On Par Blvd

Show time: 7:00p

Tickets: 239-454-2067

### December 31, 2021

### Spring, TX

The Centrum, 6823 Cypresswood Dr

Show time: 7:00p

Tickets: 281-440-4850

## 2022

### January 23, 2022

### Malibu, CA

Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts, 24255 Pacific Coast Hwy

Show time: 2:00p

Tickets: 310-506-4522

## How Bill Martin First Heard of the Four Freshmen

(continued from page 5)

I thought I had died and gone to Heaven. I bought tickets, and Phyllis and I were there when the doors opened. George Shearing was the first to perform and was a delight to hear in person. Next, the announcer introduced The Four Freshmen. I thought he had made a mistake, as the Kenton Orchestra had not yet come on stage. I did not know that The Four Freshmen could accompany themselves. When they ran on stage with their instruments and hit *Somebody Loves Me*, we were blown away! I didn't know such a big sound could come from four voices and such few instruments.

Needless to say, we became lifelong fans, having attended countless concerts through the years. We attended our first FFS convention in 1990 at Springfield, Ohio, and have missed very few since. Getting to meet The Four Freshmen, their families, and all the great fans has been an indescribable pleasure!



# 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		
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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		
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Live in the New Millennium	\$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		
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Star Spangled Banner - Five Pack	\$20.00		
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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			

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2) fax: 866-538-9044

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3) call 843-271-6001  
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4) email: [johnejazz@sc.rr.com](mailto:johnejazz@sc.rr.com)

Make check payable to:

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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

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

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## New Members

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Indianapolis, IN  
Yujiro Handa  
Yokohama, Japan

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Basil Hobar  
Bonita Springs, FL  
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\$15 Single or Couple (worldwide)  
All Renewals: One Year \$25  
Two or more years \$20 each year

FFS dues are not tax deductible.

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6900 Hunters Knoll NE  
ATLANTA GA 30328-1763

Or online at [dues.fourfreshmensociety.com](http://dues.fourfreshmensociety.com)

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Deadlines for consideration of articles:

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Jan/Feb/March - Dec 01  | 2. Apr/May/June - March 15 |
| 3. July/Aug/Sept - June 15 | 4. Oct/Nov/Dec - Sept 15   |

Submit manuscripts to the Editor:

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