

CONVENTION REFLECTIONS and Support Us on Patreon!

By Tommy Boynton

This year's convention was so special! To be reunited with so many of you after so many years really helped solidify what it's all about, gathering and community... oh, and good music! Both of our shows were so memorable for me, and to hang with The Bean Tones was really fun and special. Hearing them sing *How D'ya Like Your Eggs in the Morning* was iconic. I'd also like to give a special thank you to our friend Jordan Richards from Grand Rapids, MI for playing bass with us for those few weeks, and for not only playing SO well (he's really good), but also bringing an A game of friendship and professionalism. We're lucky to do what we do and be surrounded by so many amazing people.

At our shows these days I've taken over the roll of communicating to the audience ways to stay in touch: our social media pages, and of course, mentioning The Four Freshmen Society. During one of those spiels at a recent show, I had said that if it weren't for the support, and most importantly, the love of the members of the FFS, we as a group likely wouldn't exist. It's through your love, continued presence and support that we're able to keep going - and that hasn't been the easiest since the pandemic hit. Shows are starting to come back slowly, but the pandemic really hurt a lot of industries, including ours.

I mentioned this at the convention, but we now have a Patreon, which is a platform/app/website where you can financially support the group directly, anywhere from \$5 to \$100 a month. There are different tiers of support you can choose that are best for you; however, something that's important to me, everyone gets the same content. The only difference in the tiers is knowing how much you are supporting us a month, and by simply being there, we will be so grateful regardless of the price.

On Patreon we'll be sharing exclusive content, interviews, host zoom hangs where we can have listening parties, or share some particularly fresh memories, as well as be able to livestream our shows from the road! The first video I posted was us performing *Poinciana* with the Emmet Cohen Trio at Dizzy's in Lincoln Center. I also have a fantastic interview I did with Sue Barbour about the early years, in which I learned stuff I had never heard before!! I'll be interviewing previous members, musicians we've collaborated with, and kids like the Bean Tones. We even have rare live recordings of Group 3, and so much more we're excited to share with you on Patreon.

Thank you for all the ways you've supported us through the years and we hope you will join us on Patreon. As I had said at the convention, if everyone in that room were able to give us \$5 a month on Patreon, aka the cost of one cup of coffee or a beer, things would be pretty great for us.

The website is patreon.com/thefourfreshmen and if you have any questions, please reach out to me! My email is tboynton07@gmail.com (just please don't spam me! I trust you!)

