



# Fresh News

Volume 36, No.3

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2022



Our  
President,  
**Donna  
Gallaway**



## **GREETINGS FFS MEMBERS & FRESHMEN FANS**

The convention/reunion we planned for three long years finally happened in Bay City, Michigan June 8th thru June 10th. What a joy to see you all again! If you were not able to be there, I hope you can get a feel for just how incredible those three days were by reading the articles and seeing the photos in this issue of *Fresh News*.

We were amazed by the talented group of four young men from the Boston area who call themselves The Bean Tones. They are recent grant recipients of The Four Freshmen Music Foundation who were able to participate in a workshop led by the Freshmen on site.

The Bean Tones opened the concert on Thursday evening singing several Four Freshmen favorites in perfect harmony staying true to the charts and playing their instruments.

The Wednesday night Jam Session was very well organized and run by Dave Blackwell who contributed his own talent on clarinet. Many folks said it was the best Jam Session ever! We were also blessed to hear from another FFMF grant recipient Josh Evert who sang for a bit and then spoke during the day about his own work and interest in FF music.

The hotel staff was gracious and always ready to help whenever needed. The 113 Club Room and Music Mart were spacious enough to accommodate the Silent Auction which made for a great gathering space. The new Four Freshmen CD was selling at a fast pace as well, and you can order one or more from the Music Mart. (We have a special deal with the Four Freshmen so that all the proceeds from this CD go directly into our FFS treasury)

The two concerts by The Four Freshmen were absolutely some of the best performances by a

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**The Bean Tones**

## **...from the Editor**

by Barb Meyers

I apologize for the Fresh News being late. But I wanted to give everyone a chance to submit articles and photos. A big thank you to those who did.

### **It was a great Convention.**

- Our four guys introduced a new CD.
- The four young men brought to us by The Foundation were excellent and will keep the Four Freshmen music alive

We also had Dina Sheets-Roth, The Four Freshmen's manager, with us for the first time in a long time.

We also had hats for sale. Contact me if interested.





# New Members Elected to the Board of Directors

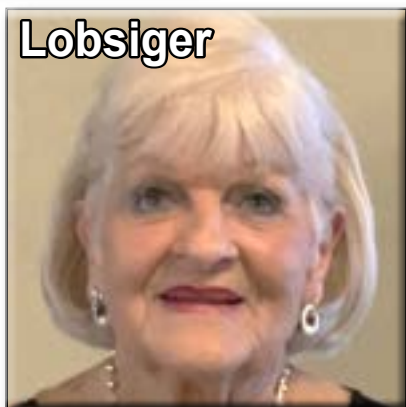
At the recent convention in Bay City, Michigan the Board of Directors of the Four Freshmen Society elected three new members to their Board. Linda Harrison from Florida, Marlene Lobsiger from Indiana, and Mark Schlichting from the state of Washington were invited to join the current members of the Board. We welcome them and look forward to working with them. All officers

of the Society and members of the Board of Directors volunteer their time and serve without compensation.



**Linda Harrison**

**Marlene Lobsiger**



**Mark Schlichting**





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







# THOUGHTS from the Bay City Convention

By Linda Harrison, Member, Board of Directors, Four Freshmen Society

Hello, All,

What a pleasure to meet in Bay City to experience the awesome sound of the new Four Freshmen! Even if there were a few logistical “hiccups,” it was great to get back in the groove of meeting together to enjoy and support the guys. Thanks to Jim and Linda! Also, the hotel staff was great, and the food was good.

The Music Foundation is in good shape financially and has been successful with the awarding of grants. How fun to have two grant recipients (Josh Evert and The Bean Tones) perform, along with the extra guest, Kiefer Quendal.

The Four Freshmen themselves are upbeat, enthusiastic about some new tunes and positive about their future. They are extremely happy with the four current members, and it was obvious they have special personal friendships among themselves and alignment based on cooperation vs. egos. Plus, as Tommy mentioned, they are using creative tools on the internet to enlarge their fan base. They are participating in the Patreon for Musicians (patreon.com), which offers a monthly membership (\$5 minimum) to build community and establish a reliable revenue stream, keeping people up to date on what’s happening with the group.

Members of The Four Freshmen Society spoke of some challenges in recruiting more members and increasing their funds. Several attendees in Bay City shared some ideas that we might want to consider for the future. Here are some of the ideas I heard:

## MEMBERSHIP

### • Increase membership fee.

Surely an additional \$5 or \$10 per year would not make membership in the FFS prohibitive for most people. It wouldn’t have to be a big announcement – just change the amount on the membership application.

Update a new membership card to have available at all venues.

### • Follow-up

Develop a program whereby hand-written notes can be sent out to expired members to encourage them to rejoin (or donate). The hand-written part was Dave Bentley’s idea on how they got so much support for the Foundation.

### • Publicize the online Membership Directory.

### • Publicize more about how to buy and stream the new CD.

### • Has it become easier for people at the CD tables to quickly process credit card payments?

## CONVENTION

### • Registration fee

Charge a bit more for the registration – surely \$125 before the deadline and \$140 after the deadline would not be excessive.

### • Conference bags

Perhaps we could consider a soft bag made from recycled water bottles to show our commitment to the environment. Each can fold up into its own little pouch to carry in a purse or pocket to be available for use after the convention. I think they are around \$3 each.

### • Shirts

How about a contest advertised through *Fresh News* to create a design for a regular, good quality T-shirt rather than the traditional golf shirt for a change?

We should offer a long-sleeved women’s version – possibly with a flattering V-neck or boat neck.

Good idea to have baseball caps.

### • Jam Session

No question, this is the BEST opening to the convention week, and the Jam Session was the very best this year.

Dave Blackwell is the perfect MC.

### • Fresh Memories

This is a wonderful way for the conference attendees to get to know the Freshmen on a more personal basis. The one in Bay City was the best one I have ever attended.

### • Wannabees

Tommy has offered to lead the Wannabees in 2023 if he doesn’t have a sound check at the same time.

Not much audience participation in Bay City, but the accompanist was great.

Is getting a digital copy of the music for iPads possible?

### • Silent Auction and CD sales

Nice to have water and punch in the 113 Club.

What about auctioning off a chance to buy lunch for one of the Freshmen (I think this was done in the past)?

### • Field trips

Perhaps just offer a single tour option to get people acquainted with the area.

Maybe just have a bag lunch available rather than a sit-down meal.

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## Corporate Board of Directors

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Larry Weise, Sebring, FL

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David Behnke, Winchester, OR  
James Terence Brien, South Bend, IN  
Hayden Byrne, Santa Rosa, CA  
Shane & Maria Clements, Tampa, FL  
Rik & Robin Cogan, Boise, ID  
Armand DeMille, Bluffton, SC  
Joe Fortino, Okemos, MI  
Fred & Marilyn Hamilton, Bay City, MI  
Frederick King, Indianapolis, IN

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*Fresh News* is published quarterly © 2022, 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 01
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](mailto:bam241136@gmail.com), Cell 419-309-7855



# The Four Freshmen Society, Inc.

Item	Cost	QTY	Total
5 Trombones/5 Trumpets	\$15.00		
50 Years Fresh	\$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		
Four Freshmen and June Christy on the BBC	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen Live in Stockholm (*) (CD & DVD) (group 4)	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen in Japan (CD) (*) (group 18)	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen in Japan (DVD) (*) (group 18)	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen with the Emmet Cohen Trio (group 27)	\$20.00		
Fresh	\$15.00		
Freshmas	\$15.00		
Freshmen Year/Voices in Latin	\$15.00		
Golden Anniversary	\$15.00		
Graduation Day	\$15.00		
In Session	\$15.00		
Live at Butler	\$15.00		
Live at Clearwater	\$15.00		
Live at Constitution Hall 1979 (*) (group 6)	\$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 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		
Road Shows	\$15.00		
Road to Portsmouth (*)	\$15.00		
Snowfall	\$15.00		
Stars in Our Eyes/The Swingers	\$15.00		
Star Spangled Banner (up to 10 per order)	Free		
Still Fresh	\$15.00		
The Liberty Years	\$15.00		
The Swingers/ 4 Freshmen-5 Trumpets	\$15.00		
Through the Years (*)	\$15.00		
Voices in Brass/In Person Vol. 1	\$15.00		
Rod Henley's Jazzmin Vocal Band	\$10.00		
"Now You Know" (Leather Bound Book) (\$120 non US)	\$100.00		

## Subtotal

Shipping - \$1 per CD for US orders (CD/DVD Combo is \$2)

\$4 per LP for US orders

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

Total

Please use "Return Address" label when available - Thanks

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number:

# \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## Pre-owned CDs (\$4 each includes shipping)

Through the Years

Live in the New Millennium

Live at Constitution Hall (2)

Graduation Day (3)

Fresh (2)

Return to Romance

Remembering Ken

Voice in Love (2)

The Liberty Years

Voices in Latin

Still Fresh

Greatest Hits

Live at Butler

Faux Freshmen

Unsung

Scratchin' the Surface (2)

Season of the Heart

Ray Brown

Southern Comfort

Thank You Very Large

## New LP's - Friends \$20, others \$15

Four Freshmen and Friends

Fresh

The Freshmen Year

(\*) Available to Members Only



# How I Met The Four Freshmen

by Janet Desmond, Toledo, OH

I'll never forget the first time I heard The Four Freshmen. It was either 1951-52 because I was in my first year of nurse training. My roommate's clock radio went off and it was the first time I heard The Four Freshmen singing *It's A Blue World* and it was love at first chord!

I've been a devoted fan ever since.

The first time I saw them was at the Crest Lounge in Detroit, MI. They were on a stage just above the bar. I was with two friends, but sitting alone because my fiancé was working. To my utter surprise (and amazement) Don came over and sat with me. I couldn't believe it and we had a very nice chat.

The other occasion was when my husband took me on an Alaskan cruise with them. I ended up walking on one of the decks with Ross. I have no idea how it happened but it was delightful! Ross was so easy to talk to — it is something I'll never forget.

I also got to see them when they had their convention in my home town of Toledo, OH. I don't get to conventions anymore but I still play their songs in my home and my car.

Their sound will always be in my heart.



## THOUGHTS

### from the Bay City Convention

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- Conference Manual

Make sure the manual is updated each year for the following year's committee.

#### FRESH NEWS

- Although the decision was made to print only in black/white after the post-convention issue, perhaps a one-or-two color template could be printed as the front page to cover the whole year, with the black text added for each issue.

- Prepare a page for *Fresh News* with a feature that focuses on one or two CDs that people may not realize can be purchased. This was an idea Curtis and I discussed years ago — someone with knowledge of the CD can provide a few comments about how the album came about and why is it valuable to have in a collection.

Or, perhaps the CD page could be printed separately as a once-a-year (color?) catalog rather than taking up a page in each issue of the *Fresh News*.

#### CONVENTIONS BEYOND 2023

- Four Freshmen Legacy
- For those of us in our 80s, the history of the legacy is interesting and important. And it will be especially relevant for the historical 75th anniversary convention in 2023, with traditional images and procedures.
- But if we want to sell FFS memberships, concert tickets and album purchases, especially to younger jazz fans, we need to let the music stand for itself and honor the youth, extraordinary talent and stage presence of the current group. (Plus, the legacy is the Foundation's job.)
- Update image?
- Perhaps it is time to hire a graphic designer to update the logo and overall image.

The new look could be printed on generic 6" x 9" presentation folders that could be used for all groups that would benefit from the promotion: the FFS Society, the Music Foundation and IVI (Dina), depending on the business card added to the inside, with contact information added for all on the back.

For specific purposes (e.g., potential performance venues), the folder could be sent out with the latest playbill, the latest CD, a membership application, and a small card with the current performance calendar. Although The Four Freshmen Society might have been originally established just for fans to meet at annual conventions, many members think the group needs to get more involved in making sure these guys have a viable future long after we are gone. We aren't competing with the Music Foundations' commitment to the legacy, but we owe it to these extraordinary musicians to make sure they have plenty of gigs and ticket/album sales ([ivimanagement@me.com](mailto:ivimanagement@me.com)).

No matter what, the Four Freshmen conventions make you feel like you are at a family reunion — and at least at these, you love all your relatives!

# Apples or Pears

By Jorgen Bjorno, Denmark

Nov. 16th, 1973 was the first time Keith Murray from New Castle in England, and I, from Aalborg in Denmark, met at a workers social club in the little town of Spennymore in Northern England. The performers on the little stage were The Four Freshmen (Group 5) to whom we both were greatly dedicated Freshmen Fans. That meeting became



the start of a lifelong friendship. Later again we met at the first FF-convention in 1988 held in Las Vegas. Through the following years we met at several conventions in USA and concerts in Europa (Amsterdam, Malmø, Oslo, etc.) Many years have gone by, but through letters and E-mails we still keep close contact with each other.

The latest example: Feb. 2022 I wrote: Dear Keith Sorry my mail-account has been shut down for three months, (I had forgotten my "login") Now I have to get a new one. I will remember the rest of my time: "4Freshmen22". The "22" is not the year. It relates to the best group ever through the years. The group we experienced through 12 years of conventions in USA and Holland (2005) as well as shows. Do you remember Chat Noir in Oslo in 2008? What a night. There will always be good Freshmen, and we would loved to have gone to the next Convention in Bay City in June - but sorry... we are too old and vulnerable. Besides we now have a dangerous war going on only few hours from our border.

March 2022 Keith wrote: Dear Jorgen I can't argue your admiration of Group 22. They were a fine vocal group, but to my ear not the best ever. For best ever blend and vocal technique they cannot be better than either the Hi-Los or the Suntones. In my years those two quartets produced

almost perfect vocal technique. I studied under a few vocal coaches from USA and the King Singers in UK. Neither Group 4 (Bob Flan – Bill C – Ross B –Ken A), nor Group 22 (Brian E –Vince J – Curtis C – Bob Fer) ever came close to that perfection - BUT! After Group 4, the groups never generated that FRESH sound - nor gave the impression that they were feeling the harmonies rather than re-creating them. Group 4 was the last group to generate that energy. It is not easy to remember how we felt listening to them making their sound. It is good that you and I can have different opinions on our favourite line up. I love the rougher sounds of the original groups 1 to 4. They had to work to find those harmonies.

March 2022 Jorgen wrote: Dear Keith, Thanks for your mail with your response about our favorites. I love the old discussion about which fruit taste best: - apples or pears - "Group 4 or Group 22"- ?? The first one will always be something special wonderful for me because that was the four men I first experienced live 1966, in Tivoli, Copenhagen. They knocked me down. Later, Betty and I saw Group 4 again in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1972.

Group 22 was created in 2001 at a convention in Kentucky, and I still remember that special enchanting feeling of the absolutely optimum quartet sound. It became the one and only for me. At a dinner we spent some time with Betty Kratsch (widow to org. Hal Kratsch – Group 1). She said: "I am in shock! This group sounds better than the original." I could only approve.

April 2022 Keith wrote back: In regard to the war close to you, we too are concerned. The EF, USA and Uk cannot be involved because that would lead to a World War and the next one might be the last !! - In regard to our difference sight on "Freshmen Sound and Quartets" - I still cannot agree that Group 22 was the best ever. Yes, they sang and played perfectly whenever we were at a concert. Chat Noir in Oslo was a special warm atmosphere, BUT those four young men were studio standard session musicians. Everything

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## GREETINGS

### The President's Message

(continued from page 2)

Freshmen group that I can recall. These guys were enjoying performing together for all of us as much as we were loving every note they sang and played! There is a new energy in this group of four men that comes from a special and very close relationship that they have created around the music both on and off the stage. Wow! So much fun to be able to watch and listen to them put out that unique sound we can't get enough of.

We were also blessed by the presence of the manager of the Freshmen, Dina Sheets Roth, who was able to join us in Bay City for the first time since our convention in Portland 15 years ago. What a wonderful three days of all things Fresh from the Wannabees to Fresh Talk to the banquets and the tours. Thank you Jim and Linda Williams for hanging in there through the adversity that the pandemic caused and hosting this crazy bunch of Freshmen fans. We thoroughly enjoyed it!

Now you need to stay tuned as we explore sites for our 2023 event. This will be a super special convention, as we will be celebrating 75 years of the Four Freshmen. As soon as we have that site and dates, we will let you know so you can start to plan. You won't want to miss this next one!

## Apples or Pears

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was just so. However I look at Group 4, on the Dusty Springfield Show, and we see four men who are redefining a live quartet appearance. Look at how Ross is finding every note with his whole body - low notes by bending down and high notes by stretching his height upwards. The sound was new and was being made by those who invented that sound. The groups that followed were singing the music scores that Ross and Bob could not write down. In the very beginning they were four students who set out on a very vulnerable adventure and yet despite all the odds being against them left a legacy that still endures. The New Toppers were a phenomenon and led to successful careers for the many young musicians that sang those arrangements. Whenever I saw and heard the later groups, it was ALWAYS Ross, Bob, Kenny and Bill that I heard. Does that make me a sentimental fool? You bet - I am proud of it! You cannot imagine how my life changed after our meeting in Spennymore back in 1973. With a smile I remember when we, Sept. 1988, were at Bob Flanigans house in L.V. and you said to me: "You are not doing so bad for a boy from New Castle".

*"That's what friendship is all about!"*

## 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 993, Hampton Bay, NY 11946

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)**

**August 7, 2022**

**Scranton, PA**

Scranton Jazz Festival, 222 Wyoming Ave

Show time: 5:30p

Tickets/Info: 570-575-5282

**August 15-16, 2022**

**Irvine, CA**

Sunset Jazz at Newport, 19100 Von Karman Ave

Show time: 6:00p (patio opens at 5:00p) Tickets: 949-759-5003

**September 9, 2022**

**Old Saybrook, CT**

The Kate-Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, 300 Main St

Show time: 8:00p

Tickets: 860-510-0453

**October 27-28, 2022**

**Overland Park, KS**

Midwest Trust Center, 12345 College Blvd

Show time: 8:00p

Tickets: 913-469-4445

**December 4, 2022**

**Coolidge, AZ**

Pence Center, Central Arizona College, 8470 N. Overfield Rd

Show time: 2:00p

Tickets: 520-477-SHOW

**December 11, 2022**

**Oakley, KS**

Oakley High School Auditorium, 118 West 7th

Show time: 3:00p

Tickets: TBA

**December 31, 2022**

**Spring, TX**

The Centrum, 6823 Cypresswood Dr

Show time: 8:00p

Tickets: 281-440-4850

## 2023

**March 3, 2023**

**Pinehurst, NC**

Bradshaw Performing Arts Center - Owens Auditorium

3395 Airport Rd

Show time: 7:00p

Tickets: 910-695-3800



6900 Hunters Knoll NE  
ATLANTA GA 30328-1763

Address Service Requested



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44870  
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*The Four Freshmen Society™*

Visit our Website: [fourfreshmensociety.com](http://fourfreshmensociety.com)



If you would like to make  
a tax-deductible donation,  
please go to  
[FourFreshmenMusicFoundation.org](http://FourFreshmenMusicFoundation.org)  
or contact FFMF Treasurer  
Dave Bentley [dbentley@optonline.net](mailto:dbentley@optonline.net),  
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