

# Tom's Tribute

Tom and Delee have been great friends for such a long time. If I told you everything they did for us it would take a whole page. Mel and I were lucky enough to have seen them before the Bay City Convention. Little did we know it would be the last time we would see Tom.

It was Tom that talked Mel into following him as President and Chairman of the Board. And, it was Tom that talked me into following him as **Fresh News** Editor. He made it easy for me as he already had Eric and Mark Advertising on board. — Barb Meyers

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I remember the day this distinguished gentleman walked in the front door of The ArtD'partment. He hobbled over to the nearest chair and sat down without saying a word yet. Then looked up with a smile that says, "there is no way you can say NO to me." He introduced himself with voice that had almost a southern draw to it and said, "Have you ever heard of The Four Freshmen?"

"Yes," was my response. But I had no idea what I was getting into. What an amazing experience Tom has opened my eyes to.

Tom and I had wonderful times putting together the **Fresh News** newsletters. Tom had a way to make work fun - similar to Tom Sawyer. He was extremely organized.

Almost 14 years later, we still enjoy putting together the **Fresh News** after Tom passed the baton to Barb Meyers. Tom would still pop in once in a while to see how we were doing and just chat for a while. Tom, I owe it all to you. Thank you so much!

— Eric Winkel

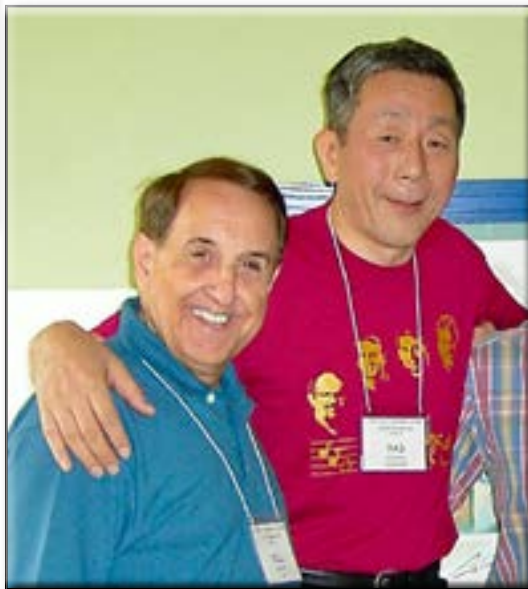
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Tom Purvis was a man with a purpose. I got to know him well after my stint as chair of the FFS, and we shared many a talk and cocktails always discussing how to best help the Freshmen, and how to make the FFS a better society. Tom's contribution to the society was large and important. He was organized and wanted the society to be the same. He was passionate about the Freshmen music, and many times recommended ways to communicate that music to a growing fan base. Tom Purvis did not suffer fools, and he was not reluctant to share his thoughts be they in keeping with the general posture, or against what he considered the proper course. I shall miss him and reflect on the knowledge that this was a good man, dedicated to his family and dedicated to The Four Freshmen." — David Bentley



# Four Freshmen Vocal Scores

by Bill Martin



Dear Freshmen Fans,

I grew up in Ashland, Kentucky and became a Four Freshmen fan in the early 1950s when I first heard one of their recordings; But, I became even a bigger fan in 1958 when I first saw them "in person" at a Stan Kenton Road Show Concert in Columbus, Ohio.

Fans have always considered The Four Freshmen to be in a class by themselves, and to think every quartet, both amateur and professional, has desired to sing like them.

Freshmen arrangements, however, are quite challenging to perform and not easily obtainable. Through the years, though, I was able to collect several Four Freshmen vocal scores from the vast collection of David Bentley, and from The Four Freshmen themselves.

In 1995, my collection grew by leaps and bounds when I received copies of some marvelous transcripts of Four Freshmen arrangements from Yasushi "Yas" Ichiura who lives in Tokyo, Japan. The transcripts were done by a friend of his, and a very talented musician, named Yutaka Alaki who lives in Nara-Shi, NARA, Japan.

It happened a few months before 1995 FFS Convention at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio, when the transcripts arrived with the suggestion that he, (Yas) and I, along with two others, get together to sing them privately during our stay at the convention. We needed a piano in order to get our starting pitches, but the only place we could locate one was in the public meeting area called "The Birdcage". As we started singing, other fans became involved, and The Four Freshmen "Wannabees" had its beginning.

We had originally planned to sing the charts a cappella, but we became dependant upon the piano, as each singer had to strike a note here and there to stay on pitch. Finally, I sat down and started playing chords behind the vocals, and Yas began playing the instrumental solos on his valve trombone (which was formerly owned by Bob Flanigan). So, Yas and I became accompanying "orchestra" for the Four Freshmen Wannabees.

At each convention since then, the Wannabees have gathered around a piano to sing these wonderful arrangements. During that period, more transcriptions, in various forms, have been collected. But, it seems there were never enough copies, some copies had errors, some were far too complex to sing, and they were not in a consistent form. So, I, along with an Ashland friend, Jim Greenslate, took up the task of completely re-noting the charts, correcting any errors, writing out most of the intros and instrumental solos, and selecting those songs that lent themselves to group singing. We hope you enjoy!