

Volume 2: Out Now!

And Twin Cities Jazz Festival

by Tommy Boynton

It's here—*Volume 2* of our collaboration with Emmet Cohen, Russell Hall, and Kyle Poole was released on June 20, 2025! If you haven't listened yet... what are you waiting for? You can hear it in a few different ways: CDs are available through our website, it's up on our Bandcamp page (fourfreshmen.bandcamp.com), and of course, it's streaming on all major platforms—Spotify, Apple Music, Tidal, YouTube, Amazon, and wherever else you get your music. We truly hope you enjoy it. Huge thank you to everyone who helped bring this recording to life with your contributions back in 2020. Your continued support means the world to us and always inspires us.

This new release comes from the same unforgettable recording session as *Volume 1* with Emmet's Trio. The session was so rich with energy and ideas that we ended up with more material than one album could hold—so naturally, we had to make two. *Volume 2* showcases a wide variety of tunes and memorable moments. Bob arranged *You Do Something to Me*, a playful take on the Cole Porter standard, along with a fiery version of *Besame Mucho* that surprised even us with its intensity—in the best way. Our friend Riley Helgeson, who previously arranged *From This Moment On*, returned with a stunning arrangement of *You and the Night and the Music*, full of exciting textures and rhythms that Jake and the trio brought to life beautifully. Greg Stegeman's arrangement of *Cry Me a River* features an incredible vocal solo from Jake Baldwin that sounds a little too good. I contributed a few arrangements as well: *When You're Smiling* (the trio sounded so good on this one we had to release both take one and take two), the hauntingly beautiful Billie Holiday tune *Some Other Spring*, and Richard Rodgers' *The Sweetest Sounds*, which took on a stunning life of its own during the session.

One of the most unique moments on the album is *It's a Blue World*, a Four Freshmen classic reimagined as an instrumental trio piece (with a little bit of trumpet). Ryan had the idea to let Emmet, Russell, and Kyle reinterpret it, and what they came up with—steeped in the spirit of Red Garland and their own incredible chemistry—was something really special. I vividly remember watching them create it on the spot. Kyle would hold up fingers to signal how many rhythmic hits they'd do—starting with one, then two... it was spontaneous arranging in real time. A true joy to witness.

To celebrate the release of *Volume 2*, we timed it with our performance at the Twin Cities Jazz Festival in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where we shared the stage with Emmet on piano, Kyle on drums, and the phenomenal Yasushi Nakamura on bass. It was my first time playing the Twin Cities Jazz Festival (let alone headlining a festival!), and it being in my current hometown made it deeply personal and meaningful. From seeing some of my students and tons of friends in the audience, to my parents showing up with their new puppy Bruno, it was an emotional and unforgettable night. The first 45 minutes of that set were among the happiest moments of my 2025. Don't get me wrong—the entire concert was wonderful—but those first few tunes really lit a spark. Most importantly, the concert marked a bittersweet but beautiful moment for us: it was Ryan Howe's final performance with the band. His lead voice, and his love of this music have been a constant source of inspiration. Sharing the stage with him, keeping the Four Freshmen legacy alive together, has been a defining chapter of our 17+ year friendship—one I'll always treasure.

So now, go listen to the album! Share it with the people you love, call your local jazz radio stations and request it, and from the bottom of our hearts—thank you for your continued support.



1. When You're Smiling (take 2) - 3:27
2. You and the Night and the Music - 2:51
3. Some Other Spring - 4:21
4. You Do Something To Me - 3:33
5. The Sweetest Sounds - 5:53
6. It's a Blue World - 3:43
7. Besame Mucho - 5:05
8. Cry Me A River - 3:46
9. When You're Smiling (take 1) - 3:16

Visit our website at www.FourFreshmen.com
© The Four Freshmen Inc. 2022
All Rights Reserved. Unauthorized duplication is a violation of applicable laws.

THE
FOUR
FRESHMEN