

A New Chapter

by Bob Ferreira

Hello Fresh Fans and Friends! As anyone acquainted with the history of The Four Freshmen is well aware, one of the major foundational principles in keeping a group like The Four Freshmen chugging along through the years (no pun intended) has been its ability to find members who

- 1) have a passion and enthusiasm for the sound;
- 2) have the ability to uphold the traditions of that sound on a musical level; and
- 3) have the reverence and respect for the history and legacy of the group that helps maintain a standard from which we move forward to bring this sound to all our listeners - from those steadfast Freshmen aficionados to those who have just had the opportunity to experience The Freshmen sound for the first time in either a live or recorded setting. Needless to say, we have been very fortunate to find outstanding individuals who have been able to fulfill all these requirements and have proven themselves by going above and beyond what is normally required to be in such an illustrious group as The Four Freshmen.

All who understand this also understand that change is a natural and inevitable part of what helps keep this group moving forward in ensuring an even longer legacy of harmony, tradition, and inspiration. It's because of these qualities that we are also able to find willing and excited individuals to whom we can pass the torch and move forward.

So I am here to announce that after almost five years, Ryan Howe has decided to step away from touring and pursue a new chapter in his life. Ryan

first came into the group toward the end of the pandemic and, from our very first show in Largo, Florida, proved he was more than capable of filling that iconic lead part role with the passion, power, and sensitivity that both kept with the tradition of the sound as well as leaving an indelible mark on the legacy with his own signature approach that was both unique, knowledgeable and respectful of his predecessors. Ryan contributed in so many ways over



the years both on and off stage that have helped the group move forward in a positive direction. We are always saddened to see a member like Ryan leave, but it begs remembering more of what a person has contributed with his time in the group and the positive mark he has made in the Freshmen legacy. Ryan has done these in spades. I hope you will join the boys and me in thanking our dear friend, Ryan, for his contributions and wishing nothing but the best for Ryan in his future endeavors. Ryan, you are simply tops!

With that, we would like to take this moment to introduce a new face and voice to the hallowed halls of Freshmen lore. Well, he may be a new face for some of you, but for those who attended the FFS convention in Bay City, Michigan a few years ago, you may recognize this young gentleman. Chris



Peters, who some of you may know as the lead part singer and bass player from the very talented 'Freshmen inspired' vocal group *The Bean Tones*, has stepped in to continue this amazing tradition of harmony. At 25 years old, Chris has already proven himself more than capable of filling that crucial role as our 'melody man.' I won't go too much into Chris's background here as I will just let Chris do that for himself in his article he submitted to all of you in this issue entitled, *Back Home Again in Indiana: Greetings from new lead Chris Peters*, but suffice it to say we are all very excited to have Chris on board and start making some new memories with all of you. Please join me in welcoming Chris Peters to the Freshmen family.

We all look forward to seeing you out on the road very soon. You all are our life breath in this musical journey. I personally consider myself blessed being able to continue to share the stage not only with outstanding musicians, but amazing human beings. This is what has and continues to make The Four Freshmen a group worthy of the ages.

The journey continues...