

Another Change Is Made

by Gil Peterson

There is another change being made with the Freshmen. Ryan Howe, who has been the lead singer and bass player for The Four Freshmen since 2020 has unfortunately decided to retire from the group due to lingering health problems. During his tenure with the Group, he performed masterfully. Even though traveling was becoming more difficult all the time for him, he continued to deliver great performances for The Freshmen. Obviously, we will miss him and wish for him only the very best. Thank you, Ryan, you will always be a Freshmen!

The new Freshman is someone that many of you already know. The Bean Tones were a product of a grant from The Four Freshmen Music Foundation. As a matter of fact, they performed for us at the Bay City convention several years ago. The lead singer/bass player was a young man named Chris Peters. Chris is now officially the lead singer/bass player for Group #28. Welcome, Chris. We are delighted to have you on board and look forward to seeing you perform. I know you are going to do a fabulous job. You just happened to become a part of the most iconic jazz vocal harmony group in the history of the music industry. It doesn't get any better than that!

Hope you all have a great summer... GO GROUP #28!!!

Back Home Again in Indiana

Greetings from new lead Chris Peters



Hello Four Freshmen fans, I am very honored to officially be in Group 28 of The Four Freshmen where I'll be singing lead and playing bass. How crazy is that? Before I go any further I want to give a huge shoutout to Ryan Howe for honoring the legacy for about 5 years so beautifully with his heavenly voice and

warm-hearted personality. Take a second and say, "Thanks Ryan" to yourself right now. Go ahead, it will be weird if you're in public but if enough of us say it at the same time it will travel all the way to Chicago into his ears.

The start of my Four Freshmen journey started when I was a high school senior in my hometown of Highland, Indiana. I was given the task by my choir director, David Markley, to arrange something for my choir to perform at graduation. Upon doing research to pick a song, Google.com introduced me to a little song by what I thought was some fancy barbershop quartet called, *Graduation Day*. Looking back, I'm shocked I was recommending The Four Freshmen and not any other group who may have covered that song. I can't think of any but I'm sure there is at least one in striped shirts, maybe who knows...

I attended Berklee College of Music in the fall of 2018 where I majored in Music Production and Engineering. Before I moved into my freshmen dorm room, I found a guy named Grant Heineman who made a post on Facebook looking for a roommate. In his post he listed these four guys as one of his favorite bands. I was so shocked that someone else my age enjoyed this music from the 50s, I immediately messaged him and have been roommates with him since then.

Grant and I soon met James Gillen and Davin Kingston who also liked to sing so naturally we started a barbershop quartet called The Bean Tones. We sang a lot of arrangements at a cappella showcases, nursing homes, on Newbury Street in Boston, and even competed in BHS events. Things really got cooking when we added instruments and tried singing Freshmen classics like *The Day Isn't Long Enough*, *Graduation Day* and *Blue World*. We continued to hone in our sound by learning new tunes. We were lucky enough to be awarded a Four Freshmen Music Foundation grant to attend the 2022 convention in Bay City, MI. While we were there we got to perform for you all, get a masterclass from Group 27, and hang out with many of you!

Since then, I worked on a cruise ship where I lied and said I knew how to play bass, when really I could just do a few notes. I traveled the world for four months and played bass every night which really got my playing up to par. Once I got off, I followed through with my lifelong plan to move to Los Angeles. Grant and I convinced James to move with us and meet Davin who had already been there. We began posting Four Freshmen covers and new original arrangements in a new formation with James and trumpet (which he started learning after college too!) and we've been hard at it recording and performing original arrangements inspired by The Freshmen and the Hi-Los.

Through the few years of catching Group 27 perform, I've been able to play lots of disc golf and hang with the guys plenty. So jumping in with Jake, Bob, and Tommy has been so easy and rewarding and I've already grown so much as a musician. It's been a long time since a Hoosier has been in the group, and I'm more than ready to bring this group back to its roots. I grew up just 15 minutes from the Pla-Bowl in Calumet City, IL where they played countless times, most likely to my relatives and their friends. I look up to and admire every single person who's been in all 28 of these Groups and progressed the sound for 77 years and I look forward to so many more!