



Fresh News

Volume 39, No. 3

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2025

THE FOUR FRESHMEN

FEATURING EMMET COHEN
RUSSELL HALL & KYLE POOLE

Vol. 2



Our
President,
**Donna
Gallaway**



The Four Freshmen and Emmet Cohen Trio Heat Up The Twin Cities Jazz Festival

By Christian Rank, FFS historian

The temperature was already sizzling when Group 27 along with the Emmet Cohen Trio took to the main stage at the 27th annual Twin Cities Jazz Festival held in Mears Park in downtown Saint Paul, but the heat didn't stop the Frosh and Emmet from putting on a top notch show for hundreds of Freshmen and Jazz fans in general who were feeling the groove from the first note. Our boys came out swinging with *From This Moment On*, with Jake displaying his finest horn playing finesse. A jubilant *When You're Smiling*, which is on the new CD, followed and the crowd was smiling from ear to ear. Ryan's now familiar arrangement of *All the Things You Are* (my favorite as of late), *Easy Living*, Kenny Albers treatment of *Have You Met Miss Jones*, *Put On A Happy Face*, *Day By Day*, *It's A Blue World* and *Poinciana*, with a little nod to Ahmad Jamal courtesy of Emmet, made for a most enjoyable set. The crowd then grew silent when the boys did a nearly a capella *I'm Always Chasing Rainbows*. You could hear a pin drop!

Emmet, along with Yasushi Nakamura (bass) and Kyle Poole (drums) did a really swinging solo set which was highlighted by a stunning virtuoso take on Bacharach and David's *This Guy's In Love With You*, which had us all in awe! Is playing this good legal? Fortunately, yes! The Freshmen came back on and closed with the most swinging *Route 66* I've ever heard, and believe me, I've heard many. The capacity crowd was definitely feeling the vibe!

This two-day festival was a very well-organized affair with two alternating stages at opposite ends of the park and various other acts playing at assorted restaurants, bars and clubs throughout the Twin Cities. One of those venues was Crooners Supper Club which hosted the Explosion Big Band, who had among its roster, the Freshmen's Jake Baldwin in the trumpet section. We had a great time tapping our feet to the best of Basie, Thad Jones/Mel Lewis, Ellington, etc.

Many cities have loads of jazz talent, but the Twin Cities is near the top, and it sure was on display this first weekend of summer!

This was definitely the right occasion to launch the much anticipated Volume Two of the Freshmen with Emmet Cohen, Russell Hall and Kyle Poole. If you haven't heard the album yet, you won't be disappointed and you'll be in for a few pleasant surprises!

What a way to kick off summer. Here's to Group 27!



GREETINGS FFS MEMBERS & FRESHMEN FANS

Hope you are all enjoying a restful and not too hot summer with plenty of good music to soothe your souls. Need some new music? The Freshmen have just released a new album with the Emmet Cohen Trio. Order a disc from the Music Mart or download it from the Freshmen's website.

The recent loss of Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys brings attention back to the huge influence the Freshmen have had on other musicians and groups. Brian was so impacted by the sound the Freshmen created that he spent endless time dissecting their harmonies then writing the many hits the Beach Boys produced over the years. Today it is great to see some groups of college age kids who want to learn the Freshmen charts and then perform and share the music. You can catch some of those performances on YouTube.

When you read the rest of this issue of *Fresh News*, you will find the introduction of FF Group 28. What an exciting time for the Freshmen to welcome a twenty-something young Chris to the group! I can't wait to see them perform!

It is with much sadness that we say goodbye to Ryan Howe after five years of heartfelt dedication to the group and to the FF sound. Ryan, we will miss your strong voice and your gentle nature - a true gentleman of song! We thank you for your many contributions to keeping that Fresh Sound alive. Best wishes for a great future. We will always love you as a valued member of the Four Freshmen!

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

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...

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!

The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Item	Cost	QTY	Total
5 Trombones/5 Trumpets	\$5.00		
50 Years Fresh	\$5.00		
Capitol Collector Series	\$5.00		
Culmination - Greg Stegeman (*)	\$15.00		
Faux Freshmen - Scratchin' the Surface	\$5.00		
Faux Freshmen - Seasons of the Heart	\$5.00		
Faux Freshmen - Unsung	\$5.00		
Faux Freshmen - One More Time Around	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen (Jazz Factory)	\$5.00		
Four Freshmen and Friends	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen with Emmet Cohen	\$18.00		
Four Freshmen with Emmet Cohen Vol. 2	\$15.00		
Freshmas	\$5.00		
Freshmen Year/Voices in Latin Vol I	\$5.00		
Golden Anniversary Vol II	\$5.00		
In Session	\$15.00		
Ken Albers Arrangements	\$28.00		
Live at Butler	\$5.00		
Live at Clearwater	\$5.00		
Live at Mr. T-Bones (group 5) (*)	\$5.00		
Live at Penn State (*)	\$5.00		
Live at the Franklin	\$5.00		
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	\$5.00		
Live Trombones	\$15.00		
Lost Soul - Curtis Calderon	\$15.00		
Love Songs	\$15.00		
More 5 Trombones/In Person Vol. 2	\$5.00		
Remembering Ken (*)	\$5.00		
Return to Romance/Live in Manchester (*)	\$5.00		
Road Shows	\$5.00		
Road to Portsmouth (*)	\$5.00		
Snowfall	\$5.00		
Star Spangled Banner - Single CD	\$1.00		
Star Spangled Banner - Five Pack	\$4.00		
Still Fresh	\$15.00		
The Liberty Years	\$5.00		
Through the Years (*)	\$5.00		
Voices in Brass/In Person Vol. 1	\$5.00		
Voices in Standards	\$5.00		
Four Freshmen and Friends LP	\$20.00		
"Now You Know" (Leather Bound Book)	\$100.00		
Book is \$120 for orders outside US			

Please use "Return Address" label when available - Thanks

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

Email: _____

Name on Card: _____

Visa ____ MC ____ AMEX ____ Disc ____

CC #: _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date: ____/____/____ CVV _____

Three Numbers on Back
(Four Numbers on front for AMEX)

All \$5 CDs are 4 for \$20 plus \$1 each for postage.
(International Orders, Shipping is actual cost.)

Subtotal

Shipping - \$1 per CD for US orders
 \$4 per LP for US orders
 Foreign Country: actual shipping costs for CDs
 and LPs, \$20 for "Now You Know" book

Total

Ordered at the convention

(*) Available to Members Only

Corporate Board of Directors

Gil Peterson, Chairman 541-672-0937
Donna Gallaway, President
419-516-3642
John Emerson, Treasurer 843-271-6001
George Nosky, Secretary 734-397-7096
David W. Bentley 203-972-1916
Maurice Byrne 905-575-1530
Chaz Cone 770-833-2902
Dan de la Torre 775-787-0632
Linda Harrison 561-358-9418
Marlene Lobsiger 260-760-5531
David Mehl 502-243-3030
Barb Meyers 419-309-7855
Christian Rank 734-728-1673
Mark Schlichting 360-303-2373

Corporate Board of Directors Emeriti

Yasushi Ichiura 011 81 33 467 7573
Neil Lantz 317-849-7443
Dorothy Lydic 412-301-0420

General Information

Donna Gallaway, President
787 E. Main Street, Leipsic, OH 45856
Phone: 419-516-3642
Email: gallawaydonna1@gmail.com

Financial Office

John Emerson, Treasurer
74 Doncaster Lane, Bluffton, SC 29909
843-271-6001
Email: johnejazz@sc.rr.com

Membership Office

Data Base-Change of Address
Chaz Cone, Director/Webmaster
6900 Hunters Knoll NE
Atlanta, GA 30328-1763
Mobile: 770-833-2902
Email: ffs@chazcone.com

Historian

Christian Rank
6501 Yale #404
Westland, MI 48185
Phone: 734-728-1673
Email: freshhistorian@yahoo.com

FreshNews

Barb Meyers, Editor
1673 Colonnades Cir. N.
Lakeland, Florida 33811
Phone: 419-309-7855
Email: bam241136@gmail.com

Music-Mart

Barbara Emerson, Director
74 Doncaster Lane
Bluffton, SC 29909
Phone: 843-271-6001 or 888-448-7429
Fax: 866-538-9044
Email: johnejazz@sc.rr.com

Four Freshmen Music Foundation

Mike Condit, Chairman
11822 Village Park Cir.
Houston, TX 77024-4418
Phone: 713-464-4184
Email: condit_m@msn.com

The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

Check the Website: fourfreshmensociety.com or fourfreshmen.com for updates
For bookings: International Ventures Incorporated
Dina Sheets-Roth
P.O. Box 2749, Wenatchee, WA 98807
Phone: 661-259-4500 Email: ivimanagement@me.com
Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

August 13

Mable House Barnes Amphitheatre, 5239 Floyd Rd SW
Showtime: 7:00pm

Mableton, GA

Some seats FREE!
Ticket info: 770-819-7765

August 23

The Opera House, 403 N Huron St
Showtime: 7:30pm

Cheboygan, MI

Ticket info: 231-627-5841

August 25

Dakota Jazz Club, 1010 Nicollet Mall
Showtime: 7:00pm

Minneapolis MN

Ticket info: TBA

August 31

CampusJax, 3950 Campus Dr
Doors open @ 5:30p
Ticket info: <https://www.campusjax.com/events/event/581/>

Newport Beach, CA

Showtimes: 6:30pm and 8:00pm

September 2,

Herb Alpers Vibrato Grill Jazz, 2930 Beverly Glen Cir
Showtime: 7:30pm

Los Angeles, CA

Ticket info: 310-474-9400

November 6

Grinnell College, 1115 8th Avenue
Showtime: TBA

Grinnell, IA

Ticket info: TBA

December 3

Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, 300 Main St
Showtime: 8:00p

Old Saybrook, CT

Tickets: 860-510-0453

December 7

Horseshoe Bay Cultural Enrichment, Granite Ballroom
at Horseshoe Bay Resort, 200 Hi Circle N
Doors open: 4:30p
Show time: 6:00p
Dinner: 5:30p

Horseshoe Bay, TX

Tickets: [Click HERE](#)

Fresh News is published quarterly © 2025, 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, Cell 419-309-7855

Contributors

Richard Haegle

Fort Pierce, FL

GROUP 28



6900 Hunters Knoll NE
ATLANTA GA 30328-1763

Address Service Requested



FIRST CLASS
US POSTAGE
PAID
SANDUSKY OH
44870
PERMIT #35

The Four Freshmen Society

Visit our Website: fourfreshmensociety.com



If you would like to make
a tax-deductible donation,
please go to
FourFreshmenMusicFoundation.org
or contact FFMF Treasurer
Dave Bentley dbentley@optonline.net,
203-972-1916.

© 2025