

My two favorite Barbourisms

Allegedly after receiving his honorary doctorate degree at Butler University, Ross was asked to say a few words, but is completely unprepared. So he begins: "It's a time for joy, a time for tears. . ."

Kidded by friends who allegedly ask him for medical advice, Ross responds: "I have a Doctor of Arts degree. So I can only advise those whose name is Art."

Christmas Gift Suggestion: Try Four Freshmen 'Snowfall' Album

Puzzled about what to give a friend or relative during the upcoming Christmas holiday season?

Here's a thought. . . something that can bring about 45 minutes of happiness each time it's used. . . the "Snowfall" album actually recorded a year ago in South Texas. It's available at the FFS Music Mart.

Although the Four Freshmen are renowned for being their own accompaniment, this time they selected a rhythm section of FFS member Polly Harrison on 7-string guitar, Kyle Keener on drums and Hamilton Price on acoustic bass.

"The time frame for getting the album done was extremely short," Polly explains. "We got the arrangements done ahead of time, and rehearsed our parts. We also received a rough CD of the vocals, so we essentially knew what the group would sound like."

"We only had one full rehearsal, but it was a long rehearsal. Then we managed to complete all takes in one day."

Polly and Keener have comprised the popular Small World duo for some 30 years in San Antonio. They often augment with other musicians. . . which is how they came into contact with Curtis Calderon about 15 years ago when he was still in high school.

"So it was fun to reunite with Curtis, who was playing with us when first discovered by the Four Freshmen," Polly points out. "Now that he's moved back to San Antonio, we try to get him with the group as his schedule permits, almost always on trumpet, sometimes on piano, and occasionally, both."

Of the baker's dozen 13 songs, my favorite, and Polly's is the title song. (I had not heard the words to the Claude Thornhill standard before.) "I also liked 'My Favorite Things,' Polly adds. "In fact, I enjoyed a lot of the songs."

Mike Collins (TX)