



Fresh News

Volume 23, No. 4 OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2009

Presidential Appointment

Tom Purvis, Chairman, Board of Directors

It is my very great pleasure to announce that Mel Meyers of Toledo OH has been appointed as the new president of the Four Freshmen Society for the next few years.

Mel retired from Hughes Aircraft Company in California in 1989, and some years later returned to his home town of Toledo. His interest in the Four Freshmen goes back to the Crest Lounge in Detroit and later serving as the FFS Membership Director in the Southwest. In 2007 IVI recruited Mel to be the official publicist for the Four Freshmen during the 60th anniversary year of 2008, a continuing task that he, with the support of his wife Barb, accomplished in a grand manner. A very logical progression thus puts Mel as an outstanding candidate to continue to direct our support for the Four Freshmen. I know that we may count upon you to assist Mel when asked.

Additionally, I am also pleased to announce that Jack Morrison of Michigan has been appointed by Mel, to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors created by the loss of Chick Trafford. Jack has headed our convention selection committee for several years and thus has been an important contributor to the Society. His continuing advice and counsel of the board will be important as we move into a new administration. Contact information for Mel and Jack is included on page two of each issue of Fresh News. Feel free to contact them for information and assistance.

A SHORT NOTE FROM THE PRES.

What a wonderful Convention this last one was: "Blue Moon", several former Freshmen, good food and even Miss Georgia. Obviously, we have no shortage of talent in the Society. The Freshmen were at their best, charming their audience with exceptional humor and terrific sound. They always look more relaxed in front of a big band and at this convention that was true again. There may be a message there ... Lets hope the 5Trombone idea sticks.

I won't dwell on the economy except to say that during this time all of us need to recruit new members. To assist you in that challenge, you will soon receive a static-cling decal for the inside of your vehicle's the rear window. It will say FourFreshmenSociety.com to encourage folks to check the website — and get them to ask about the Four Freshmen. Make copies of the FFS application (enclosed with this Fresh News) and keep a few in your glove boxes.

Next year we are at Annapolis, Md where we hope to see more new members and our off- shore members, again.

Mel Meyers, President

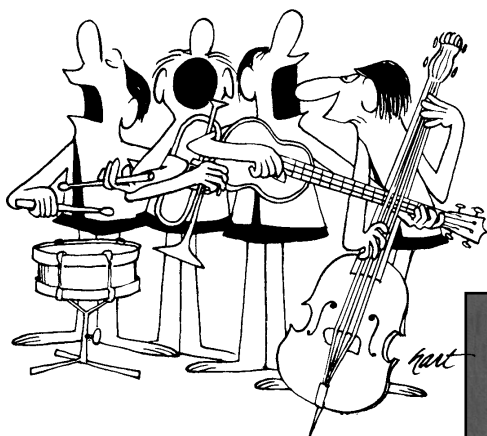


Top: The Four Freshmen with the GPC Jazz Ensemble

Middle: Bob, cake and Miss Georgia 2009, Miss Kimberly Gittings



Ross leading the Wannabees



Ellen de la Torre, Barbara Meyers and incoming President, Mel Meyers.



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Thanks for Your Donations

Yasushi Ichiura
Don Elward
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Deadlines for consideration of articles:

1. Jan/Feb/March - Dec 15
2. Apr/May/June - March 15
3. July/Aug/Sept - June 15
4. Oct/Nov/Dec - Sept 15

Submit manuscripts to the Editor:

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tpurvis@nwonline.net

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Gerald Waters, Richmond, VA
Gary Wheeler, Johnson City, NY
Don Whittaker, St Helens, United Kingdom
Al & Chris Yuen, San Francisco, CA

CHARLES H. "CHICK" TRAFFORD 1934-2009

The Four Freshmen Society recently lost one of our most tireless contributors and the Four Freshmen lost who was most surely one of their greatest fans. Chick Trafford was a driving force within the society serving as the editor of Fresh News for nearly twenty years. His dedication to the music and the group has been a serious influence upon the genre and it is very likely that the Four Freshmen and the Society would look far different today had it not been for his years of dedication and support. Chick had to deal with multiple health issues in recent years so we know that it was often a struggle to serve in his role as editor of Fresh News, and his final issue was published just a few weeks prior to his passing. The Society and the Freshmen family has lost a dear friend and he will be missed.

To the Four Freshmen Society

As you probably know Chick was a member of the Society of Friends. Since there was no Meeting for Worship in our corner of Western PA, he attended the First Presbyterian Church with me. The church has a strong music program that involves all age levels. We had a Quaker funeral for him in the dining room of the church and the only music heard was the sound of the Four Freshmen.

Your very generous donation to his Memorial Fund has been directed to the music department of the church. I thank you for keeping the music playing.

Chick was an accomplished singer as a very young man. When he discovered the sound of the Four Freshmen he struck gold! His dedication to the Society was a gift of love and he felt lucky to be able to share it. I thank you all for honoring him with a donation to music. Peace to thee (as Chick would say)

Thank you,
Sue Trafford

An opportunity to help the FFS save significant money

The cost of printing and mailing FreshNews continues to climb and consumes funds that could be better used in support of the performing Freshmen.

We're offering you the opportunity to opt out of the snail-mailed copy of FreshNews that you get each quarter - and get your copy of FreshNews even more quickly.

For some time, each issue of FreshNews has been put on the FFS website the same day it's published. You can view the current issue easily -- and issues all the way back through 2002 online.

Viewing FreshNews on line has several advantages:

- 1) We don't have to kill as many trees and continue to incur so much of the spiraling printing and mailing costs.
- 2) You will get your online version of FreshNews instantly when it's ready for circulation.
- 3) Since FreshNews is online in Acrobat format, you can zoom the type to any size you want; this is especially helpful for those of us with, shall we say, less than perfect eyesight.
- 4) If color is used, you'll see that color on-screen
- 5) You can print a copy on your own printer if you want a paper copy; and, you can print only those pages that interest you.

If you're unaware of how to view FreshNews online, you can do so by going to www.fourfreshmen.society.com/freshnews.

For members who still want a printed/mailed copy, we will, of course, continue to publish FreshNews in paper form for you. But we're offering you the opportunity to opt out of the snail-mail version to help us control costs.

If you want to help by reading/printing FreshNews online only, just send an email to freshnews@fourfreshmensociety.com and say "opt out" anywhere in your response. If you do so, it will save the FFS money now (and even more in the future) and help us avoid dues increases.

Thanks for considering opting out of the mailed version of FreshNews.

ReFRESHingly,



The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

Check the website: fourfreshmensociety.com or fourfreshmen.com for updates

For bookings: International Ventures Incorporated
Dale Sheets & Dina Sheets-Roth
25864 Tournament Road, Suite L
Valencia, CA 91355-2375
Phone: 661-259-4500 FAX: 661-259-1310
Email: ivingmt@earthlink.net

For information or questions call: Mel Meyers 419-380-8596

October 7-10, 2009 Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval Ave, Reservations: 313-882-5299
Showtimes: Oct 7 & 8: 6:00pm & 8:30pm, Oct 9 & 10: 8:30pm & 11:00pm

October 11, 2009 Grand Rapids, MI

West Michigan Jazz Society, Aquinas College Kretschmer Recital Hall,
Tickets & Information: 616-949-6339, Showtime: 7:00pm

October 12, 2009 Port Huron, MI

First United Methodist Church, 828 Lapeer Ave
Tickets: Port Huron Music Center, 2700 Pine Grove Ave,
Port Huron, MI 48060, 810-984-5081, Showtime: 7:30pm

October 13, 2009 Cleveland Heights, OH

Night Town, 12387 Cedar Road, Showtimes: 7pm & 9pm,
Box Office: 216-795-0550

October 16, 2009 Meridian, MS

Riley Center for the Arts, Mississippi State University, 2200 5th St
Tickets: 601-696-2207(M-F 10am-6pm CDT), Showtime: 7:30p

November 6, 2009 Newberry, SC

Newberry Opera House, 1204 McKibben St
Tickets: 803-276-6264, Showtime: TBA

November 8-15, 2009 Ft. Lauderdale, FL

The Jazz Cruise, Info: 800-762-6737 or 888-852-9987

December 1, 2009 Oklahoma City, OK

Oklahoma City Community College, IOCCC Theater
Showtime: 7:00pm, Tickets: 405-682-7579

December 2, 2009 Oklahoma City, OK

Oklahoma City Community College, Workshop/Educational Presentation,
OCCC Theater, Time: TBA, Info: 405-682-7579

December 4, 2009 Erie, PA

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, Mercyhurst College
501 East 38th St., Showtime: 8:00pm, Tickets: 814-824-3000

December 16-19, 2009 Palm Beach, FL

The Colony Hotel, Royal Room Supper Club, 155 Hammon Ave
Show time: 8:00pm, Reservations: 561-659-8100

FRESH LINKS

Atlanta convention :
<http://twitter.com/ffanfare>

Whether you were at the Atlanta convention or not, you still can take in many of the sights and sounds.

The convention was the "best covered" in the history of these gathering, with lots of videos and audio recordings that were made available via the Internet during and after the convention..

There also were frequent daily news updates from the convention posted online via the Four Freshmen FanFare site on Twitter. Those still can be found at <http://twitter.com/ffanfare>; you don't have to have a Twitter account to access them.

Here's a rundown of all the video and audio recordings available online that we know about, with descriptions and links. These simplified Web links have been created specially for this article and will take you to either the Four Freshmen Society Web site or YouTube.:

Thursday Jam Session:
<http://tinyurl.com/ffsatlantajam>

FF conventions begin with Thursday night jam session where fans are encouraged to perform. Since FFS members really care about the Four Freshmen sound, songs from the Great American Songbook and both big band and small group jazz, that and the very informal format of this event makes it a favorite of many. This year's lineup included the Greg McLean Quartet to back up the performers. They were Greg McLean (trumpet), Mark Tucker (piano), John Ivy (bass) and Bill Norman (drums). Four Freshmen alumnus Ray Brown again was the evening's host. Follow the above link to open a FFS Web site page where you can click any tune/artist listed to hear it.

Friday Dinner Show: <http://tinyurl.com/ffsatlantafrid>

The best-selling Four Freshmen album of all time was "Four Freshmen and Five Trombones". That Friday night, for the first time anywhere, the Freshmen performed tunes from that original LP, with the rhythm section (and, of course, five trombones) of the Georgia Perimeter College GPC Jazz Ensemble. The band also performed four numbers alone and then welcomed the Four Freshmen to the stage and backed them for 11 more tunes.

Click on the appropriate link which at the above Web page to hear each individual tune or scroll down the page to watch the 72-minute video from the session.

Chick Trafford Memorial:
<http://tinyurl.com/ffsatlantafrieve>

Before the Friday night concert, outgoing FFS President Dick Baldwin and FFS Midwest Communications Director Wayne Corey spoke briefly about longtime Fresh News editor Chick Trafford, who died after a lengthy illness just before the convention. You can watch the video of this memorial to Chick on this page.

Saturday Dinner Show:
<http://tinyurl.com/ffsatlantasateve>

Saturday's concluding concert following the dinner was "all Freshmen all the time," performing self-contained in two sets. Click on the appropriate link on this page to hear any tune from both sets.:

Yoshi's, San Francisco "A performing arts center, with a menu"

Thus did Bob Ferreira describe the venue for the Labor Day weekend concerts in SF. Not merely a jazz club, Bob told the nearly sold out crowds at the 3 concerts on Sept 5 and 6. A fine facility with great sound, great staff, and great food and drink; "... try the pot stickers... and the green drink with the whipped cream and cherry on top...", Bob chided the audience, as food was being served to attendees seated around intimate tables, during performances.

Not only was it a holiday weekend, the Bay Bridge was closed that long weekend for retro construction; so it was unknown what kind of turn out there would be for the concerts. No need to worry, as FF fans were not deterred from turning out to hear the boys. Sat and Sun night performances were sell outs; and the Sunday matinee crowd was more than half capacity. Nearly 900 heard the boys that weekend; and CDs were totally sold out.

One lady came dressed all in blue, including her lovely hat. She said later that she wanted to stand and sing with the boys during their rendition of "Little Girl Blue", and "It's a Blue World"; and she wondered why Vince didn't play the "big bass, and do more whistling".

Thanks to Y Yoshi's policy on a kid's price, there were several young children attending the Sun matinee, whose parents paid only \$5 to introduce the FF sound to their kids.

Society members Bob and Sue Goodell attended all 3 performances; while many, many in the audience raised their hands when asked, how many are attending a FF concert for the first time. Eight people in the audience became new Society members. The crush of fans at the Society table after the Sun night concert required The Four, the reps, and the expert help of lovely Jennifer, Vince's friend, to handle the rush of sales, questions and autographs.

In addition to the superb music and setting, other highlights included: Curtis's solo horn work, and his rapport with the audience, commending them for being such a large, enthusiastic group, unlike many "sleepy Sunday night audiences"; Brian's great guitar and vocal work, and his agreement with the assessment of the uniqueness of San Francisco's non cookie cutter ambiance, saying he had his "Subway sandwich on a different kind of bread here"; and, of course, Bob's strong leadership on vocals and drums, and dealing with business details.

Next on the schedule for Northern California: April 8 at the Sacramento Community Center Theater; Apr 9 at the Napa Valley Opera House; and April 10 at the restored art deco El Campanil Theatre in Antioch.

And, we hope for more Y Yoshi' s... .

Kermit and Hanna Sveen, Northern California reps



L to R: Curtis Calderon, Vince Johnson, Ross Barbour, Rod Henley, Brian Eichenberger, Bob Ferreira, Bob Flanagan.

FRESH LINKS continued

"Fresh Talk": <http://tinyurl.com/ffsatlantayaz>

You can hear the one hour 35 minute audio transcription from Saturday's "Fresh Talk" with current and alumni Four Freshmen by downloading this 109 MB mp3 file made available by Yas Ichiura.

Yas Ichiura Convention Photo Album:

<http://tinyurl.com/ffsatlantayazphotos>

See dozens of photos taken by Yas Ichiura at the Atlanta convention, displayed at this link in a grid format. Scroll to the bottom if you prefer another format. The options are slideshow, mosaic, or carousel. See who you can spot.

The Freshmen's Memorable Take on "Blue Moon":

<http://tinyurl.com/ffsatlantabluemoon>

This 5 min. 16 sec. YouTube video produced by Tom Kilbride shows the Freshmen doing a hilarious version of "Blue Moon" on their Saturday night show, the segment that sealed this as the "Blue Moon" convention. You'll also get to see and hear all current and Four Freshmen alumni present on stage singing "Day In, Day Out," with a surprise "Blue Moon" riff. This is quickly becoming a classic.

Bob Flanigan Birthday Tribute:

<http://tinyurl.com/ffsatlantabobf>

This YouTube video produced by Tom Kilbride shows Bob Flanigan at the Saturday night show receiving his cake marking his 83rd birthday that day. 1 min. 22 sec.

Friday Show Snippets:

<http://tinyurl.com/ffsatlantafritage>

Here are snippets offering a quick overview of Freshmen songs from the Friday concert. Produced by Tom Kilbride and available on YouTube. 2 min. 7 sec.

Ross Barbour leads Wannabees:

<http://tinyurl.com/ffsatlantawannabees1>

Original Four Freshmen Ross Barbour leads convention attendees in this afternoon session, with all singing "The Day Isn't Long Enough" and a trombone solo by Yas Ichiura. Ross closes on the "air violin." Produced by Tom Kilbride. 3 min. 12 sec.

Opening Day: <http://tinyurl.com/ffsatlantaday1>

This is the first video from the convention, with scenes from the first day of the convention, produced by Tom Kilbride. It opens with shots of the hotel where we were meeting, then visits the registration table and the "Club 113" room where the Four Freshmen Society Music Mart is set up for business, a silent auction is being held for a variety of Four Freshmen items, and other activities are underway. The concluding section shows Ross Barbour leading fans in singing a Four Freshmen arrangement, "It Happened Once Before," one of many we sang during that day's two-hour songfest. The trombone solo is by Yas Ichiura. Fans are shown reading from songbooks available for loan or sale (\$20). 3 min. 22 sec.

Song List: <http://tinyurl.com/ffsatlantasonglist>

Yas Ichiura compiled and posted this song list for the Friday and Saturday Four Freshmen concerts.

The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Email and the Four Freshmen Society Membership Department

In the database that I maintain for the Society, there's a place to store your email address and I've been diligently putting email addresses in as I receive them. At this writing only about 25% of the membership has a good email address listed.

I'm sure that there are more members with email than I have recorded -- and I'm appealing to you to help me improve the quantity and quality of the addresses we have. Why? Because sometimes we need a quick way to get the word out on some time-sensitive event. And because email is so darned efficient!

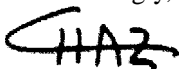
I've put up a password-protected web page where you can go and check your email address for accuracy. There's a link there that you can click to let me know if it's wrong (or if you're not listed but you do have an email address). Would you take the two or three minutes to help me out?

Just go to www.fourfreshmensociety.com/members/ and follow instructions. You'll be asked for a username and password; the user name is "113" and the password is "club" (lower-case, without the quote marks). Please do NOT share the password with anyone outside the Society. Extra credit if you email me with what "113" and "club" means to the Four Freshmen!

You can email me at chaz@fourfreshmensociety.com (if you have a different email for me in your records, that one will work, too).

Thanks so much for helping me get the records straight!

ReFRESHingly,



FFS Membership Department

6900 Hunters Knls NE, Atlanta, GA 30328-1763

770-394-2663 • ffsmembership@fourfreshmensociety.com

Membership Application

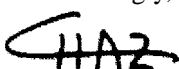
Enclosed with this copy of FreshNews you'll find a new member application for the Four Freshmen Society. Please make a few copies and use them to recruit your friends. The best way to help the performing Freshmen is to ensure the growth of the FFS so that we can continue to help them with new CDs and so forth.

Even if you don't make copies, please give this one to a friend and encourage them to join. If every member recruits just one more member we'll double the size of the FFS (duh!).

If you need to download a copy of the current application, just go to www.fourfreshmensociety.com/application.pdf and save it to your computer; you can then print as many as you need.

C'mon; do it!

ReFRESHingly,



Four Freshmen Society Membership Director, Database Dude, Web master and Co-chair, FFS Convention and Reunion, 2009

'Blue Moon' Convention

Mike McCoy, FFS - Wisconsin, 9-25-09

The annual gathering of Four Freshmen alumni and fans Aug 20-22 already is being remembered in Society lore as the "'Blue Moon' Convention."

It earned that nickname at the sold-out Saturday dinner show on the convention's last night at the suburban Crowne Plaza Ravinia hotel on Atlanta's northeast side. The Four Freshmen show was nearing its end when Freshmen bass singer Bob Ferreira announced the Freshmen had a song request from someone in the audience.

Bob said Nancy Whitmire, wife of Society Treasurer James Whitmire, had asked the Freshmen earlier in the week if they would sing "Blue Moon."

Perhaps "Blue World" was intended? Regardless, to the surprise of many in the audience because it's never been a Freshmen song, Bob said they would do just that.

With Curtis, Vince and Brian doing backup vocals and instrumentation, Bob took the vocal lead on "Blue Moon" in a 1960s- and decidedly non-Freshmen style -- one perhaps at least somewhat reminiscent of the 1961 version which was a big hit for the doo-wop Marcells..

After just a few bars, Curtis was heard loudly lamenting, "I can't believe we're doing this!" Many in the chuckling audience surely understood that sentiment.

The audience laughter quickly began to build as Curtis took control of the melody with his trumpet and left Bob and the other Freshmen in his wake. The longer Curtis played, the greater the laughter until any pretense of an ensemble performance disappeared. "Blue Moon" had turned into a brief Curtis showcase before Curtis apparently realized it was the moment the music should die.

"That answers the question whether we do 'Blue Moon'," Brian said after a brief moment of silence. Slight pause. "No."

The laughter and sustained applause from the 400-plus present may have been for the good-humored Freshmen effort -- or more likely, for the unexpected comedy that came with it.

Moving on (so we thought), the Freshmen brought four Freshmen alumni, Ray Brown, Rod Henley, Ross Barbour, and Bob Flanigan to the stage for a rousing show-closing number by the now-"Eight Freshmen" singing "Day by Day."

Within just a few bars, however, Curtis took control on trumpet with a brief jazzy "Blue Moon" riff that meshed exactly right with "Day by Day," provoking another round of audience laughter and at that moment insuring the three-day event would be recalled as the "Blue Moon Convention."

Somehow the assembled Freshmen finished "Day by Day." It was a special treat as Bob had told fans earlier in the convention he no longer sings. With that in mind,, Bob was told as he was invited to the stage to join the others that he could simply mouth the words if he wished. Fortunately for the fans present, he not only sang but his distinctive voice that helped make the unique Freshmen sound clearly could be heard by those present.

Flanigan's appearance on stage was his second of the evening, the first being for the presentation of a birthday cake by Miss Georgia USA as Saturday was Bob's 83rd. He also was given a large quilt which featured as its pattern color photos of various configurations of the Freshmen and selected album covers from their 60-plus years.

It was part of the pre-show dinner program which had included the transfer of the leadership of the Four Freshmen Society from Dick Baldwin to Mel Meyers. Dick was honored with a special plaque commemorating his service and Mel delivered a short acceptance speech.

A Mid-Show Change

For the Saturday show, the Freshmen had planned to do their first-half performance with their standard multi-mike setup, then move to one mike for the second half, recalling the earlier years of Freshmen amplification. They started the second half with "Poinciana" but abandoned their plan after that number because of the loud music coming from a wedding party in an adjacent ballroom.

They returned to the one mike arrangement later in the program when the wedding party took a musical break and were able to finish the show following their original plan.

The Freshmen were called back for two encores by an audience unwilling for the evening and the convention to end. "We'll Be Together Again" was the first encore, while the second featured both "After You" and Ross Barbour's composition the Freshmen used for many years to close shows, "And So It's Over." (And so it was until we gather the same weekend again in 2010 at Annapolis, Maryland.)

Among the many tunes offered during the evening were several revivals. The list included "Graduation Day," "Laura," "Little Girl Blue," "Guilty," "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows," and "Give Me the Simple Life."

'Fresh Talk' allows for recollections

Earlier Saturday, the traditional "Fresh Talk," well attended as usual, was held for fans, with all current and past Four Freshmen alumni present in Atlanta serving as a panel taking questions from the audience. .

Some responses:

Bob Flanigan said of Friday night's Four Freshmen performance:

"I was in awe as much as you (the fans) were."

Asked about his memories of the late '50s era "Roadshow" tour, Bob said "Working with the Stan Kenton band was the ultimate." (The mention of Kenton was timely as the following Tuesday was the 30th anniversary of his death.)

Asked about his earliest musical days, Bob said he started on harmonica as a child, then learned guitar. He had his first instruction in chords from listening to the "Grand Ol' Opry" radio broadcasts

'Blue Moon' Convention (continued)

Bob also mentioned in passing that "We'll Be Together Again" was written by Billy May on back of a menu at El Rancho in Las Vegas.

Asked about his favorite instrument, Vince Johnson said after earlier learning piano and other instruments (trombone, etc.), he now prefers whistling..

Ross Barbour's favorite Four Freshmen song? "I Get Along Without You Very Well."

Bob Flanigan and Autie Goodman picked as their favorite Freshmen numbers "We'll Be Together Again" as their choices. Favorites of others?: Brian Eichenberger, "There Will Never Be Another You," and Rod Henley, "Angel Eyes." Vince Johnson said there were too many to pick from. Curtis Calderon declined to pick a favorite and Bob Ferreira said he leans toward "Invitation" as his choice.

Bob Ferreira said in response to a question that the Four Freshmen much enjoy meeting fans immediately after a show, but wanted them to understand how important it was for the Freshmen to keep healthy and their voices in shape when they're touring so they're able to give each show their best. Thus, at times they may have to pass on meeting fans to avoid catching or passing on a "bug." He asked for understanding.

To the surprise, and pleasure, of fans present, ex-Freshmen Greg Stegeman called from home just as "Fresh Talk" was ending to greet everyone and express regret at his having to miss the gathering. Rod Henley took the call on his cell phone and held it next to the mike so all in the room could hear him.

"What a great convention. I gotta tell you guys, usually there are people that say they are the biggest fans of this or that. Or they say they are the group's #1 fan (even though hundreds may claim it), but I do think Ray just might be our #1 fan. It's a close call with lots of our fans, but I may have to give it to Ray!"

"Thank you Chaz, Gael, Jim and any others involved in this year's convention. It was spectacular. Ever since the convention committee was formed years back, each convention has gotten better and better." — Curtis



Palle Christensen, Wayne Corey, Yas Ichiura.

Friday Night Scenes from Atlanta

Friday night's Four Freshman concert (separately reviewed in this issue) was the first of two performances by the Freshmen at the convention and featured the very hot 17-member Georgia-based GPC Jazz Ensemble to open the show. That group then did 11 numbers with the Freshmen. When GPC concluded, Bob Flanigan was first to jump up to lead the standing ovation for GPC.

Earlier, Bob jokingly requested during the show the Freshmen do 'Surfer Girl.' To Bob's surprise, and perhaps the audience's, the Freshmen complied with an improvised and abbreviated instrumental version kicked off by Curtis Calderon.

In announcing the "Five Trombone" arrangements being premiered that night, Bob Ferreira told the audience the Freshmen also were working on an arrangement of "Thriller" (the Michael Jackson smash hit). The audience sat silent (perhaps stunned?) before Bob cracked a smile. (In today's terminology, we'd just been punked.)

The Four Freshmen opened the second half of the show with an informal improvised instrumental version of 'Tequila' to help speed everyone's getting seated. It accomplished its purpose.

Other Atlanta Scenes

Ross Barbour told fans gathered to sing Friday at the afternoon "Wannabees" session that "In This Whole Wide World," the next song up, was written on a notecard, then tossed on the floor by the composer who was working with them after he had played only a few bars on the piano. He apparently didn't think it was of Freshmen caliber. The Freshmen, however, immediately took to it and collectively rushed to pick the card up, saving it for what become one of the group's best-loved tunes.

Freshmen lead singer Brian Eichenberger was spotted around noon Friday heading out of the hotel for a run and sporting his new summer look: short (and naturally dark) hair.

Thursday's opening event was a "jam session" open to all attendees. On stage were a number of talented musicians, among them Bob Flanigan, Ross Barbour, Autie Goodman, Rod Henly and Ray Brown, all making appearances to sing (Ross, Autie and Rod) or just speak (Bob and Ray).

Ross sang one number, 'Georgia,' with lyrics he altered to salute the convention host state and Four Freshmen fans.

Flanigan told the audience in his brief comments -- which included his thanks to them for all of their support-- 'I don't sing anymore, play anymore (pause) but I DRINK!' As the audience laughed, he then held up a glass of water.

Ray, who served as the evening's MC, told those urging him to sing that he no longer does due to a bout with mouth cancer.

The Freshmen's Saturday night show in Atlanta ending the three-day convention, was sold out as of early Friday.

A popular gathering place for fans during the day was the "Club 113," a hotel meeting room used during the convention for socializing, perusing offerings at the Music Mart table and tables of other record dealers, talking with hosts of the 2010 convention about plans for that Annapolis, Maryland, event, bidding in a multi-day silent auction for mainly Four Freshmen items as a fund-raiser for the Atlanta convention budget, picking up convention apparel ordered in advance, and just snacking on free popcorn. (The original Club 113 stood in Ft. Wayne, at 113 Washington Blvd., where the Freshmen, then called the Toppers, had their first professional gig.)

A number of fans arrived over several days before the official Thursday start of the convention, renewing friendships from past conventions and just visiting in the area. Four Freshmen "Ambassador" Ross Barber often could be found in the lobby near the hotel entrance daytime on Wednesday and Thursday, warmly welcoming arriving attendees as he does every year.

(continued on page 8)

HELP!.... WANTED

FFS is actively recruiting volunteers, we really need some help! The loss of our long time editor of Fresh News has sorely indicated our serious lack of depth in personnel. Thus we need someone with the necessary interest and skills to move into this most important position within our organization. Fresh News is published four times a year and requires the ability to devote the time and energy to collect, review, edit and prepare materials for publication. The actual printing and mailing is professionally handled by contractors but the content must be assembled and communicated timely. Some experience with such efforts obviously a plus and modest computer skills are required. It will be more efficient to discuss this by phone and explain the procedures should you have an interest in a volunteer, non-paid dead-end career. If you have an interest give me a call and we can go over the process and details. The necessary green eye shade, sleeve garters and #2 pencils will be provided. Let me hear from you, please!

Tom Purvis, Chairman, Board of Directors
419-684-9208 or 419-684-9512

Other Atlanta Scenes (continued)

Other convention activities included Friday daytime bus tours in the area, daily afternoon two-hour singing sessions for "Wannabe" fans with Ross Barbour directing us and sharing more of his own memories of the songs we are singing, a meeting of those who are active on the Four Freshmen Yahoo Group, and a Four Freshmen Society Board meeting.. Saturday activities included Society State Representatives meeting to discuss their activities and ideas and the just under two-hour "Fresh Talk."

The Atlanta convention was the first with frequent updates from the gathering each day shared online with the world, using the resources of Twitter. Those posts still can be found online at <http://twitter.com/fffanfare> (no Twitter account needed to access them). This Twitter page is dedicated to news about the Four Freshmen.



My Personal "Bucket List"

This past weekend in Atlanta, Georgia was my extremely fortunate attempt to accomplish my own personal version of that movie. I can tell you that Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson had nothing on this old man after three magnificent days at the Crown Plaza Hotel.

To begin my thankful appreciation I must start with expressing my deepest appreciation to organizers Chaz and Gael Cone. I've attended hundreds of Four Freshmen concerts and several conventions. This was (to me of course) the epitome of grandeur and panache. To those who know me, it's no big secret that The Four Freshmen are my all-time favorite singers/musicians/recording artists and that I have been a devout "fanatic" since the very beginning. My "Number One Hero" has always been Ross Barbour so you can readily understand why I jumped about three feet off the ground when I received the e-mail telling us that we were going to be seated with Ross, his lovely wife Sue, along with former FF member Autie Goodman and his son plus some other guests. Another good friend of ours - Richard Obney - also was at our table. Sadly his companion for the event was unable to attend due to her mother's health problems. Richard took a lot of beautiful photographs and video that we are enjoying immensely.

From the time I checked into the Crown Plaza Ravinia until it was time to load up the car on Sunday and head home I had three days of the most enjoyable experiences of my life. From walking through Club 113 and seeing all the memorabilia, records, CDs, DVDs, pictures and items up for bidding in the silent auction to Ross relating many personal stories during his leading "Wannabe" sing-alongs, there was something to see and do almost every waking moment. It was very nice getting to finally put faces with names at the Four Freshmen Yahoo meeting that moderator Phil Stout ran for us.

The jam session was very enjoyable and some extremely talented musicians performed. Of course I was anxious for the dinner to end so we could finally see and hear what we had all traveled so far to enjoy. Friday night's concert began with a large jazz ensemble that rocked the rafters and got everyone pumped up and ready for Bob, Brian, Curtis and Vince. After a few numbers Brian announced that coming up later this year would be a concert at a jazz festival in California with the guys performing songs from the album "Five Trombones" and they were going to do several numbers for us. It was terrific and everyone thoroughly enjoyed all the music.

The concert on Saturday evening was just the Freshmen self-contained. A lot of folks seemed disappointed that several of the songs they had done on Friday were repeated. I didn't care. I love everything they do...and of course lip-synch right along with them. Of course I could list about 50 or 60 tunes I'd love to hear them do but I'm sure would be very difficult. The bit the guys did with "Blue Moon" had the whole place laughing hysterically. You need to see the YouTube videos and enjoy it all again.

After each show the guys met with their legions of fans for photographs and answering everyone's questions. These guys are truly gracious and extremely friendly - a hallmark of all the Freshmen since the very beginning.

So my personal "Thank you!" to Chaz, Gael, Ross, Flanigan (who celebrated his 83rd birthday (with everybody including Miss Georgia of 2009), naturally Bob, Brian, Curtis, Vince, and of course Pamela who allowed me the opportunity to just be a bit crazy for a few days with The World's Greatest Entertainers!

Four Freshmen Forever!!!
Ray Gardner, Leesburg, FL

FIVE TROMBONES REVISITED

The Freshmen had been working on Four Freshmen and Five Trombone charts for recording at September's West Coast Jazz Party. Those performances may comprise the next FF Group 22 CD. Lucky convention attendees got to hear them first.

Voices and Brass, recorded by Group 3 with arranger/conductor Pete Rugolo in 1959, could have been called The Four Freshmen and a Gang of Trombones. As many as nine 'bones played on some tracks. Five played on the classic track Candy and that chart kicked off the exciting Five Trombones segment. The GPC trombone section, augmented by a fifth player, sounded a tad tentative at the start but that didn't last long.

Our Love Is Here to Stay made 400 people remember just how thrilling the Four Freshmen sound can be. Here were the four voices across five notes in the chord. Here were the second and third voices moving through the chord, the first and fourth voices anchoring at each end and the trombone choir providing rock solid backing. It was an absolutely stunning take on a chart that sounded utterly, well, fresh, even though we'd all heard it hundreds of times in our lives. Whew!

The Freshmen and trombones swung through Somebody Loves Me and You Made Me Love You with a great sound mix allowing us to hear bass and piano driving the rhythm section. By the time the guys got to the famous break before the bridge, "Doo Wah, Doo Wah, Pete Rugolo" it was obvious to every listener that these arrangements sound as contemporary today as they did when we fell in love with Four Freshmen and Five Trombones.

The entire band came back for Route 66, the classic Freshmen favorite that also first showed up on Voices and Brass. The Freshmen were cookin', the band was smokin' and the whole gang rocked down that familiar highway. Bobby Troup was smiling somewhere.

From the start of the show it was apparent the Freshmen were pumped. It was also obvious that an undeclared cutting contest was going on among the trumpet players on stage. Band leader Greg McLean was good as were members of his trumpet section but the knowing smiles from Bob, Vince and Brian left no doubt that they knew what was happening. Building contractors should have been standing by because Curtis Calderon blew the roof off the ballroom of the Crowne Plaza at Ravinia that night.

Veteran sound mix master Erich Bucholtz again had the music going great. Legendary retired FF member and arranger Greg Stegeman painstakingly transcribed the original Five Trombones charts and the convention audience came prepared to love every minute of it. When the night was over a lot of fans who have heard a lot of Four Freshmen concerts over a lot of years were of like mind: this night just might have been the greatest FF concert any of us had ever heard.

Wayne Corey, FFS Wisconsin

Friday's Big Noise from Ravinia

It was a blast from the past!

It was a flight to the future!

It was Friday night at the "Blue Moon" convention in Atlanta when the Four Freshmen returned to those thrilling Kenton band Road Show days and then moved us forward with only a hint of nostalgia as they reintroduced the Four Freshmen and Five Trombones.

The Freshmen used the Road Show opener, Day In - Day Out, backed by the excellent 17 piece GPC Jazz Ensemble. The Freshmen did it with the Kenton band nearly 50 years ago and that recording still produces a thrill, swinging harder than any other live track by any Freshmen group. Group 22's vocal harmonies were impeccable this night. They took the song at a slightly slower pace than the original recording and the GPC band isn't as crisp as the Kenton band but, then, neither is anyone else. Michael Beisner once told me Day in - Day Out is one of the toughest of all FF charts. Group 22 made it look easy.

Poinciana had a somewhat quicker tempo than either the original recording or other live recordings of the song by FF groups, including Group 22, through the years. From the opening attack, it was obvious that the guys and the band were going to absolutely nail the chart. A superb sound mix added to the pleasure.

And then came a surprise. If I Had You was an obscure ballad, best known by Frank Sinatra's 1947 recording, when the Freshmen put it on their In Session CD. On the CD the chart became an absolute cooker. In concert, however, the guys have taken it back to its ballad days. It's OK but a disappointment to fans who love the uptempo Bourbon Street meets Beale Street version on In Session. But that Friday night we were introduced to yet a third FF incarnation of If I Had You. The new Big Band chart from Patrick Murray proves "it don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing!"

A super walking bass line propelled the music forward from the start. The chart has hot brass and swinging saxes. Brian Eichenberger's vocal solo put back some of that Memphis grit. Bob Ferrera said it was only the second time the guys have done the new chart live. It showed in a couple of somewhat sloppy vocal attacks but again the harmonies were great. Patrick Murray, a musician from Los Angeles by way of Austin, Texas and the Manhattan School of Music, is a most welcome addition to the Four Freshmen family of great arrangers! Bob summed it up best: "Great chart!"

Speaking of great arrangers and arrangements, Greg's Stegeman's Walking My Baby Back Home came next. Wikipedia lists 75 artists who have recorded this song since 1930, with Nat Cole and Johnnie Ray having notable hit versions in 1952. The Freshmen are the ONLY vocal group to record it. That distinction may be permanent because it would be tough to top this chart.

The intricate vocal harmonies of Fools Rush In amaze as much today as they did almost 50 years ago when Ken Albers wrote the chart. The song sounded marvelous on The Freshmen Year in 1960 and sounds super when Group 22 does it self-contained today. The Big Band accompaniment adds a special touch, perhaps because the song started as a Big Band hit for both Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey. Miller had Ray Eberle's vocal. Dorsey featured a skinny guy from Hoboken named

Sinatra. The GPC Jazz Ensemble made the song shine. Repeated listening suggests Fools wasn't Group 22's best performance of the evening, but saying that is akin to complaining when Babe Ruth only hit a triple.

Wayne Corey,
FFS Wisconsin



**Wannabees were in full form
at the Convention.**

The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Music Mart - Price List 2009

See Item # on "CD Song List" for detail

Item Title	Cost	Total
DVD Live From Las Vegas	\$30	_____
Each additional	\$25	_____
1. CD Live From Las Vegas	\$20	_____
2.* Remembering Ken	\$10	_____
3. Snowfall	\$20	_____
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19. Voices in Latin/Fresh Year	\$17	_____
20. Love Lost/Voices Love	\$15	_____
21. First Affair/Voices Fun	\$20	_____
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35. Ken Albers Charts	\$28.50	_____
Overseas	+3.00	_____
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37.* Video Pittsburgh 2006	\$10	_____
38.* Video Grand Rapids 2004	\$15	_____
39.* Video Oshkosh 1991	\$15	_____
40.* Video Stockholm	\$15	_____
Culmination, G. Stageman	\$17	_____

GRAND TOTAL

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*Available to Members ONLY

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Freshmen Fans Exchange

The following members are interested in helping others who may need to buy or sell Freshmen LP's, 45's, memorabilia, etc. Send a note or call. If you're looking to buy an album or more enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope to expedite communication.

Don Boland
665 Woodward Rd. N.
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401-724-8822

Mark Linder
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864-271-1018 after 6pm
linders4@juno.com

Jim Creedon
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freshhistorian@yahoo.com

Tom Kroboth
18715 Furrow Road
MONUMENT CO 80132
719-481-2371

Ann Smith
713 Nottingham Dr.
RICHARDSON TX 75080-6006
972-690-1643



L to R: Ray Brown, Curtis Calderon, Vince Johnson, Ross Barbour, Rod Henley, Brian Eichenberger, Bob Ferriera, Bob Flanigan



L to R: Bob Ferreira, Vince Johnson, Brian Eichenberger, Curtis Calderon - FF Group 22



Fresh Talk. L to R: Bob Flanigan, Rod Henley, Autie Goodman, Brian Eichenberger, Curtis Calderon, Ross Barbour, Vince Johnson, Ray Brown, Bob Ferreira



Rehearsal at the Convention.

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Telephone # _____

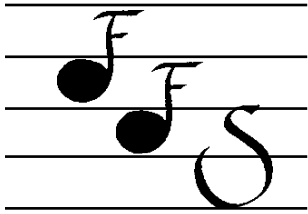
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