

# Fresh News

Volume 27, No. 4

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2013

## Group 23



One should anticipate change in the creative world, and so it happens that Vince Johnson, a 13-year veteran with The Four Freshmen, has decided to leave the group to seek out, explore and immerse himself in other musical challenges. It has happened before with talented members of this great ensemble, and it will likely happen again. Vince departs with our very best wishes and our genuine, heartfelt thanks for giving us 13 years of remarkable musicianship, holding up the part Ross Barbour made famous, playing the bass lines on a variety of instruments and giving us that special understanding that whistling

has its place in the music of the great American Songbook. Like Bill Comstock, who left the band in 1973, Vince will always be welcomed at our yearly gatherings.

Replacing Vince in body, though not in part – more on that later – is Stein (pronounced Stain) Malvey, a multi-talented teaching and touring professional musician, whose major instrument is guitar. Brian Eichenberger says he far exceeds his own guitar playing abilities. Stein has Norwegian blood in his veins – his mother is from Norway, and he grew up in Minnesota, not 20 miles from our own Brian. He brings talent, drive, ambition and a love of the ‘Freshmen sound. Stein will sing the second tenor part – his voice is very much in that register and Curtis will take over the baritone part. We welcome this 24th member of The Four Freshmen.

by Dave Bentley

# Did it really happen, or just a dream?

Yas Ichiura, FFS Japan

On Friday evening at the FFS Fort Wayne Convention, September 6, 2013 to be exact, I was enjoying the self-accompanied Four Freshmen concert. After some songs, Curtis Calderon asked ME in the audience to bring trombone from my hotel room to play together with the guys. I was so sure that he was teasing me, as I was unqualified to play with such talented super stars.

To make the long story short, sooner than later, I was standing on stage with my trombone and played the instrumental solo part of *The Day Isn't Long Enough*. I was so happy and honored to play in front of almost 500 fellow Freshmen fans. Right before they started this song, I interrupted Curtis on MC and said "I will not play until I know who pays and how much".

However, it was not the end of the story. When I was about to get off the stage, Curtis asked me to stay to sing a song with them. How could I refuse? Among a very few songs I memorized, I proposed "After You" to sing Bob Ferreira's part. Can you believe I sang with The Four Freshmen on stage?



# You Stepped Out of a Dream (Or So It Seemed)

When the Four Freshmen stepped onto the stage at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne, on Friday September 6, 2013 it was as if they had "stepped out of my dream." Since the day that Dave and I learned from Sara Lou Lantz at a jazz festival in Marshall, Michigan that the original Four Freshmen had made their very first professional appearance at the 113 Club in Fort Wayne, Indiana my dream was that one day we would bring the current Four Freshmen back to that very location where Bob, Hal, Don and Ross began. Well...it happened 65 years later and I was NOT dreaming!

Dave and I, as Co-chairpersons of the Fort Wayne convention, were overjoyed to see everyone having a good time sharing music and friendships. The Thursday night Jam Session was packed with entertainment with features such as, the Comstock family performance and former Four Freshmen, Greg Stegeman and Rod Henley favoring us with their talent. We were delighted that our members had the opportunity to have the great Jim Steele combo as back-up for their set! Fort Wayne does not lack talent, having some of the finest jazz musicians in the area including The New Millennium Jazz Orchestra who played some lesser known Kenton arrangements as a tribute to Stan Kenton on Friday night. We were pleased that we could bring our own Fort Wayne Philharmonic string players, under the direction of Rod Henley, to the convention



to perform with the Four Freshmen for a delightful Saturday evening performance.

The Afterglow party in the Hotel Atrium turned out to be spontaneous and great fun! What began with our friend and colleague, Dona Longbon playing a few tunes as we gathered in the Atrium, became a two hour sing-a-long as many of us gathered at the piano where we sang the traditional standards and some of the great Broadway choruses. Most of all, Bob, Vince, Brian and Curtis joining us at the Afterglow was an honor and great opportunity to share with them the stories we love to tell about following the journey of the 21 groups before them and how much we appreciate and love their music still; The Fabulous Four Freshmen-#22.

Dave and I were blessed with your attendance and the support of a wonderful committee who stood with us these past two years while we were in the planning of this 65th Anniversary celebration. With the dedicated work of a great committee and the friendship and encouragement of many we were able to be, "BACK TO THE 113 CLUB" in Fort Wayne, Indiana....where it all began.

We offer our sincere thanks and blessings to everyone who attended the 2013 Convention. We'll see you in Tampa 2014.

Marlene Lobsiger and Dave Blackwell

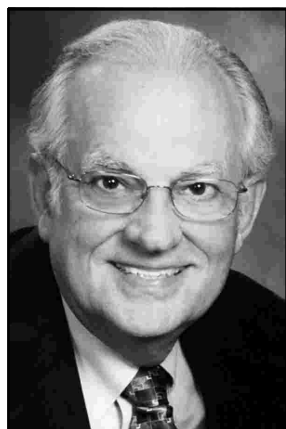
Co-chairpersons, 2013 Four Freshmen Convention.



I tried my best not to cry and sang my part in harmony with Brian, Vince and Curtis, including a trombone solo. I felt like I was in Heaven. I wish the recording of this song would be as good as I felt on stage.

I think I'm ready to die, because my dream came true, however, it doesn't mean I will die soon. Thank you to The Four Freshmen, Marlene and Dave together with the Fort Wayne committee.

# Our President, Neil Lantz



## FFS Volunteers Make It Happen!

The 2013 Convention was another great example of the generous work of the many volunteers in the Society. Without the dedicated and tireless voluntary efforts of folks like Convention Co-chairs Marlene Lobsiger and Dave Blackwell, such an event simply would not be possible. Their energy and attention to detail deserves the appreciation of all of us who had the opportunity to be in Fort Wayne to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Freshmen.

Marlene and Dave couldn't have done the job by themselves. So many Society members, some new and some "old" stepped up on behalf of their 460 guests. Kudos to Alice Bauermeister, Candy and Jim Bell, Jean Emery, Jean and Mike Findley, Donna Gallaway, Donette Harold, Linda Harrison, Pat Kirkpatrick, Sara Lou Lantz, Lori Lobsiger, Dona Longbons, Jean and Bud Mendenhall, Mary and Jack Morrison, Sue and Jim Owen, John Quick, Gretchen and Stan Roth, Michael Rush, Mary and Ken Scrogam, Donna and Lynn Shady, Francie Zucco, and Dan Zweig.

A non-profit organization like the Society simply can't operate without volunteers. They represent the organization's only asset as they continue to contribute their time and talent to serve our growing membership. Take note of the volunteers listed on page 4 of this issue who work to insure the vitality of our organization in support of the Four Freshmen.

As the Corporate Board of Directors, we appreciate each and every one of the volunteers who continue to make it happen. Next up is the 2014 Convention in Tampa next October under the voluntary Co-Chairmanship of Candi and Bob Suhrheinrich.

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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 Co-editors:

Barb Meyers, bam2411@bex.net  
Donna Gallaway, donnagal@fairpoint.net

## The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

Check the Website: [fourfreshmensociety.com](http://fourfreshmensociety.com) or [fourfreshmen.com](http://fourfreshmen.com) for updates

For bookings: International Ventures Incorporated

Dale Sheets & Dina Sheets-Roth

25115 Avenue Stanford, Suite A-102, Valencia, CA 91355

Phone: 661-259-4500 FAX: 661-259-1310

Email: [info@ivimanagement.com](mailto:info@ivimanagement.com)

Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

### October 30-31, 2013

### Oakland, CA

Yoshi's - Jack London Square, 510 Embarcadero West

Showtimes: 8:00p Tickets: 510 238 9200

### November 1-2, 2013

### San Luis Obispo, CA

Cuesta Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1

Showtime: 8:00p Tickets: 805 546 3936

### November 3, 2013

### Stevenson Ranch CA

West Ranch High School Theater, 26255 W Valencia Blvd

Showtime: 4:00p Tickets: TBA

### November 8, 2013

### North Tonawanda, NY

Riviera Theatre and Performing Arts Center, 67 Webster St

Showtime: 8:00p Tickets: 716 692 2413

### November 10, 2013

### Charleston, WV

Geary Auditorium, University of Charleston, 2300 MacCorckle Ave SE

Showtime: 3:00p Tickets: 304 744 1400

### November 12, 2013

### Bristol, TN

Paramount Center for the Arts, 518 State St

Showtime: 7:30p Tickets: 423 274 8920

### November 14, 2013

### Madisonville, TN

Butcher Auditorium, 225 Hiwassee College Dr

Showtime: 7:30p Tickets: 423 442 3210

### November 16, 2013

### Franklin, TN

The Franklin Theatre, 419 Main Street

Showtime: 8:00p Tickets: 615 538 2083

### November 19-21, 2013

### Seattle, WA

Jazz Alley, 2033 6th Av

Showtime: 7:30p Tickets: 206 441 9729

### December 7, 2013

### McPherson, KS

McPherson Opera House, 221-223 South Main St

Showtime: 7:00p Tickets: 620 241 1952

### December 11-14, 2013

### Palm Beach, FL

The Colony Hotel, Royal Room Supper Club, 155 Hammon Avenue

Showtime: 8:00p Reservations for dinner & show: 561-655-5430

### December 19, 2013

### Ft. Meyers, FL

The Village Auditorium, 15101 Shell Point Blvd

Showtime: TBA Tickets: 239 454 2067

(continued on page 9)



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## New Members

Marion & Virginia Amick, Fort Wayne, IN  
Robert & Ann Arcidiacono, Salem, NH  
John & Dianna Auld, Fort Wayne, IN  
Steven Bailey, Holland, MI  
Karen Baker, Decatur, IN  
Kay & Lary Baughman, Fort Wayne, IN  
Fred Beckman, Fort Wayne, IN  
Don & Beth Bieberich, Fort Wayne, IN  
David Bleeker, Fort Wayne, IN  
Bill & Sally Bolle, Troy, MI  
Jim & Lisa Bordner, Fort Wayne, IN  
Marion Butland, Hudson, MA  
Don Cribari, Agoura Hills, CA  
Bud & Anne Day, Manchester, MA  
Mark & Cindy Deister, Fort Wayne, IN  
Judi Eckler-Queen, Fort Wayne, IN  
Bob & Merry Eldridge, Wakefield, MA  
Edward & Elaine Gardella, Worcester, MA  
Bob Godfrey, Thousand Oaks, CA  
Martha Goldman, Ledyard, CT  
Deirdre & Tom Grenier, Northboro, MA  
Marilyn Groves, Fort Wayne, IN  
Joyce & Larry Halperin, Naples, FL  
Lois Himml, Rockport, MA  
Okara Imani, Indianapolis, IN  
Yuki Itabashi, Tokyo  
Stuart & Francine Jagodnik, Hampton, NH  
Stephanie Johnson, Fort Wayne, IN  
Marcy Johnston, Fort Wayne, IN  
Jane Keltsch, Fort Wayne, IN  
Patricia & Jeff Kennedy, North Fort Wayne, IN

Josh Kerns, Greenville, OH  
Dorothy Kittaka, Fort Wayne, IN  
Ed & Delores Klocke, Fort Wayne, IN  
Gina Kopera & Tim Reith, Mason, OH  
James & Marilyn Larson, Fort Wayne, IN  
Allie Leonard, Fort Wayne, IN  
Carol & Frank Lepara, Fort Wayne, IN  
Kim Lobsiger, DeMotte, IN  
Lori Lobsiger, Cincinnati, OH  
Matt & Linda Lockman, Fort Wayne, IN  
Justin Lortie, Albion, IN  
Mike & Darlene Mykleby, Pelos Park, IL  
Jeff & Donna Ott, South Whitley, IN  
Paul & Barbara Pearce, Richmond, VA  
Don & Lucille Pendleton, Saugus, MA  
Joe Perry, Fort Wayne, IN  
Robert Plattner, Fort Wayne, IN  
Nancy Radke, Harper Woods, MI  
Tod & Laura Ramsey, Fort Wayne, IN  
Pam & Tom Reith, Fremont, IN  
Roderick & Margaret Rodkey, Elkhart, IN  
Daveana Schieler, Fort Wayne, IN  
Doug & Jill Snyder, Hilliard, OH  
Kim Stover, Columbus, IN  
Ed Vance, Granville, OH  
Edwin & Terry Weaver, Fort Wayne, IN  
Kassie Yenser, Columbia City, IN  
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Phil & Ruth Zent, Columbia City, IN  
David Zimmerman, Bristo, IN

### FFS New Member/or Renewal Form

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Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

New Member Fee: \$32 Single or Couple (worldwide)

All Renewals: One Year \$22

Two or more years \$17 each year

FFS dues are not tax deductible.

Please mail form and correct fee to:

Chaz Cone

FFS Membership Dept.

6900 Hunters Knoll NE

ATLANTA GA 30328-1763

Or online at [www.fourfreshmensociety.com/dues](http://www.fourfreshmensociety.com/dues)

## Contributors

Tony Leone, Washington, PA

Bert Van Daele, Belgium

Donald & Marilyn Stazen, Wintergarden, FL





The Fort Wayne Mayor, Tom Henry proclaimed Friday September 6, 2013 as Four Freshmen Day all over the city.











Who were the real cigarette girls at the 113 Club on Friday night?





# Magical July 12 Freshmen performance at Newport Beach

by Fred Miller

As a college freshman away from home in 1958 the Voices in Modern album often lifted my spirits. I loved the sensual Freshmen harmonies from first hearing, but never heard them live until last year. A fraternity brother from Palm Springs had the Four Freshmen and Live Trombones CD and told me the Freshmen were still in business, albeit with new personnel. My wife and I flew down from Portland, OR to attend the spring 2012 Palm Springs performance. We then saw the Freshmen again in July at their annual Balboa Bay Club outdoor performance at Newport Beach, California. Magical truly describes that lovely waterside setting, where the Freshmen always rise to the occasion.



We returned there again this July 12, to enjoy another beautiful summer evening, where the fellows gave everyone their money's worth and more. My wife bought me the *Love Songs* CD and all Four Freshmen signed the program for her. We enjoyed brief conversations with each of them. I'm attaching a few photos of the event.



# Eternal Freshmen

## Group's Hoosier roots run deep

By Tom Castaldi

Often you'll hear the classic 1950s tune, *Graduation Day*, when the end of the school year comes around. For some reason it sounds just great when it's sung by the Four Freshmen, whose close harmony vocals rose to the top of the charts in the 1950s. The group's roots reach deep in Hoosier land. The group was founded by brothers Ross and Don Barbour, natives of Burnsville (east of Columbus, IN), who were joined by their music theory classmate, Hal Kratzsch from Warsaw.

The three came together at Butler University's Arthur Jordan Conservatory of Music in Indianapolis, and with fellow student Marvin Pruitt formed Hal's Harmonizers. At first the four pursued a barbershop quartet style; however, Pruitt disliked being onstage and soon dropped out of the group. Ross Barbour's future wife, Nancy Sue Carson, filled in, but it was a male voice that was more appropriate for the sound they were seeking. The Barbours' cousin, Bob Flanigan from Greencastle, stepped in and as lead singer took the group in a jazz-oriented direction as the Toppers.

When they played their first date in September 1948, the Toppers went on stage with the new name. Because the group dropped out of school their first year, their Chicago-based agent suggested, "Freshmen Four." Before heading to their next show in northeast Indiana, the guys reversed the name and the moniker stuck.

Vince Johnson, who in 1999 joined the Four Freshmen as a replacement, told a Los Angeles Times reporter in 2011 that the four were always pursuing the sound of five voices. Their inspiration came from the Stan Kenton Orchestra's trombone section. He said, "When the first tenor went up, the three other voices would stay either in the middle or lower register and sing full volume, which would create that open harmony. Since none of the four were arrangers, each song was arranged by ear and rehearsed in a parked car with windows rolled up tight."

Later in 1950, in the Esquire Lounge in Dayton, Ohio, Stan Kenton heard the Four Freshmen and was so impressed that he got them a Capitol Records deal. After a struggle to get a hit tune, the four finally landed the 1952 hit album, *It's a Blue World*. The tune itself epitomized their unique style and the beginning of a long list of hits: *Mood Indigo*, *Day by Day* and *Graduation Day* reached No. 17 in 1957. The Four Freshmen's music is considered the innovative four-part harmony that influenced The Beach Boys, The Lettermen, The Four Preps, The Mamas & the Papas and The Manhattan Transfer, to mention a few.

In 1955, the Four Freshmen went to Hollywood with the song, *How Can I Tell Her* for the Charlton Heston and Jane Wyman film, *Lucy Gallant*. All went well enough that the music was issued as a single and the flip side was a last minute decision. That song was *Day by Day*.

From 1953 to 1958, DownBeat magazine's Readers Poll named the Four Freshmen as the best vocal group each of five years. A Grammy nomination in the jazz-group category was earned in 1958.

Ross Barbour retired in 1977. In 1995 he authored *Now You Know: The Story of the Four Freshmen*.

Sadly, Don Barbour was killed in an auto accident in 1961. Hal Kratzsch went on to sing with The Signatures before he died in 1970. Bob Flanigan passed away in 2011 followed by Ross Barbour three months later — the last of the original Freshmen. Even so, with replacements joining in, the group's legacy continues on, as does their unique sound. Sixty-five years ago on September 20, 1948, the Four Freshmen played their very first professional date in the 113 Club on West Washington.

Allen County Historian Tom Castaldi, a retired Essex vice president, hosts "On the Heritage Trail," which is broadcast at 6:35 a.m. and 8:35 a.m. Mondays on WBOI, 89.1 FM, and "Historia Nostra" heard on WLYV-1450 AM.

# The Four Freshmen Schedule

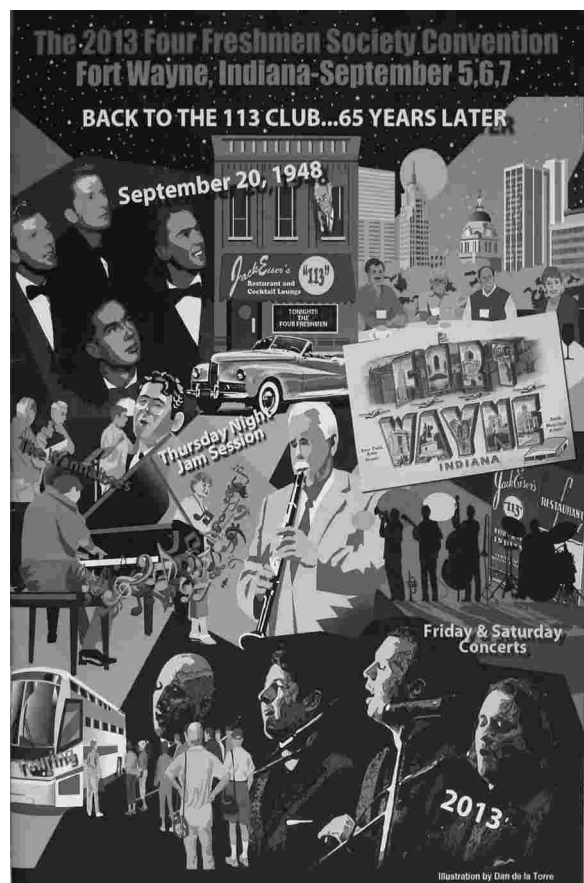
(continued from page 3)

**January 4, 2014** **Largo, FL**  
Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Dr  
Showtime: 8:00p Tickets: 727 587 6793

**January 6, 2014** **Naples, FL**  
With The Naples Jazz Orchestra,  
Cambier Park, 755 8th St  
Showtime: 7:00p-9:00p Tickets: 239 207 8299

**January 7, 2014** **Englewood, FL**  
Englewood Performing Arts Center,  
700 E Dearborn St  
Showtime: 1:30p and 7:30p  
Tickets (Subscription Only): 941 473 2787

**January 28-31, 2014** **Tampa, FL**  
Busch Gardens, Stanleyville Theater,  
10165 N McKinley Dr  
With the Glen Miller Orchestra  
Showtime: 11:30a, 1:00p and 3:30p  
Admission: Free with park admission



# The Four Freshmen Back on the "Road" with Kenton

By Wayne Corey (FFS-Wisconsin)

Two chunks of Four Freshmen history make a welcome debut on Tantara's new *Road Shows* CD. The CD features the short-lived Group #18 (1992-94) of the Four Freshmen, two editions of the Stan Kenton Orchestra and a young Ann Richards. The music ranges from interesting to remarkable and was introduced at the FFS Fort Wayne convention.

Tantara is a Joliet, Illinois label run by producer Bill Lichtenauer. The label is renowned among Kenton fans for its tireless research and release of previously unissued Kenton recordings. The company has also recorded numerous unrecorded charts written for Kenton bands.

Harry Connick, Jr.'s *Recipe for Making Love* is the surprise track among the seven Four Freshmen songs recorded in January 1994 at Nick's Cafe in Laren, Holland. The Mike Beisner arrangement is making its first appearance on a commercial recording. The CD also contains the first known recording of Greg Stegeman's unforgettable chart of *Unforgettable*. That arrangement, with modifications, became the centerpiece of Group #20's *Still Fresh* CD in 1999.

Five of the remaining Freshmen tracks are among the usual, albeit beloved, tunes from the Four Freshmen songbook including *In This Whole Wide World*, *Angel Eyes*, *Poinciana*, *Route 66* and *It's a Blue World*. Bob Flanigan supplants Greg Stegeman singing lead on *Poinciana* and proves that he still had some chops.

Group #18 was becoming a great jazz ensemble in January, 1994 but it was never an outstanding example of Freshmen vocal prowess. Probably recorded on two or four track equipment, the CD rarely provides an opportunity to pick out individual voices. Greg is obviously a dominant lead voice while Beisner is a much stronger second voice than I remember. Kevin Stout's third part, never strong, is mostly unheard and unexceptional. Bob Ferreira was in the process of becoming the strongest fourth voice since Hal Kratzsch and Ken Errair but is often buried in the mix.

The Four Freshmen are accompanied by a group billed as "a top Dutch jazz trio." Pianist Rob van Kreeveld is very good and sometimes mixed as loud the voices. Koos Serierse on bass and drummer Eric Ineke are more than adequate. Beisner's trumpet and Stout's guitar and trombone make the best solo music on the disc, however.

Five of the Kenton band tracks were recorded in May, 1955 at a Stanford University campus club. This was the band that would record the esteemed *Contemporary Concepts* album two months later. Kenton devotees believe that band swung harder than any aggregation Kenton put together before or after. Only Bill Holman's chart on *What's New* is live by the 1955 band and was recorded for the *Contemporary Concepts* album but listeners can readily hear the musical direction Kenton, Holman and the band were pointed.

The remaining seven Kenton tracks were recorded in excellent sound at the legendary Rendezvous Ballroom at Balboa Beach. They include a hot take on *Intermission Riff* with outstanding solos by Bill Perkins on tenor and Ken Larsen on trombone. Kenton fans know the names.

The four Ann Richards tracks are good but not essential. At just 19, she sounds young on the three songs recorded in 1955.

While including mostly the Four Freshmen standards on the disc is understandable, the Live in Tokyo video from that same era has superior sound plus a stunning take on Beisner's legendary Sophisticated Suite tribute to Duke Ellington. That music has never been available on a commercial CD and it is an outstanding example of just how hard Group #18 could swing. Meanwhile, *Road Shows* is a welcome addition to the Four Freshmen recorded history and is available at the FFS Music Mart.

# The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

## Music Mart Price List 2013

Title	Cost	Total
DVD Live From Las Vegas	\$20	_____
CD Live From Las Vegas	\$15	_____
DVD/CD combo		
Live from Las Vegas	\$30	_____
* Remembering Ken	\$15	_____
Snowfall	\$15	_____
Live/Millennium	\$15	_____
Voices in Modern/Funny How		
Time Slips Away	\$15	_____
Live in Holland	\$15	_____
In Session	\$15	_____
50 Years Fresh	\$15	_____
Four Freshmen		
(from the Jazz Factory)	\$15	_____
Graduation Day	\$15	_____
Voices in Standard	\$15	_____
Still Fresh	\$15	_____
* Return to Romance	\$15	_____
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* Culmination, G. Stegeman	\$15	_____
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* Road to Portsmouth	\$15	_____
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Fresh	\$15	_____
Blue World	\$15	_____
Live at Clearwater	\$15	_____
Love Songs	\$20	_____

Overseas add \$5.00 for most items

### GRAND TOTAL

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Available to Members ONLY

## MUSIC MART Order Summary

Please Complete: then    1) mail to    FFS Music Mart  
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    74 Doncaster Lane  
    Bluffton, SC 29909

   or    2) fax    866-538-9044

   or    3) call    843-271-6001  
    or 888-448-7429

   or    4) email    **johnejazz@sc.rr.com**

Total Product Cost    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Plus Credit Card (only) Handling Charge    \$ 1.00

Add \$5 per item for Overseas Shipping    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total**    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK #** \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to: The Four Freshmen Society, Inc.  
 or

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENT** (both USA *and* Overseas members eligible)

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# The Legend of "The 5th Freshman"

by Patrick (The 5th Freshman) Santell

## 1. A LITTLE BACKGROUND MUSIC, PLEASE!

Since my Dad played with the big bands and my mother sang a little, it is easy to see that I grew up in a show business environment, especially since my "godfather" was Frank Sinatra. Yes, Frank Sinatra. My father and Frank were good friends (I have photos). I have wonderful memories of holiday parties at our house, with so many big stars around me, like Tommy Dorsey, The Andrews Sisters, Billy Daniels, Doris Day, and, of course, my godfather. My dad passed at a very young age (33). Most of the people that were at those parties, and a lot of other show business people, came to our house for the viewing. I was about ten years old. It was after that we moved to Milford, Connecticut.

## 2. MEETING THE GUY THAT WOULD GET THINGS STARTED

Even prior to high school, my friends and I had a "favorite" DJ: Bob Crane ("Donna Reed Show," "Hogan's Heroes"). Early on, he was a great radio DJ. As it turned out, my best friend and I spent a lot of time with Bob over the years, and a very good friendship was created. Bob helped me get into radio. Several years passed; Bob moved to the West Coast. I finished high school and wound up in the USAF. Bob was doing a little TV work and continued to DJ on KNX in LA. Every time I passed through Los Angeles, I would visit with Bob and I would sit in as he finished his show. Then we usually had lunch and said our goodbyes until our next visit.

## 3. MEETING BILL WAGNER AND YVONNE DECARLO

On one of my visits with Bob Crane, after he finished his show he told me that he had a business lunch with someone (Bill Wagner), but I would be welcome to come along. It was at the Brown Derby. Bob, Bill, Ms. DeCarlo, and me! This day would become one of the highlights of my life! Lunch, drinks, conversation (some private), and Bob said he had to go. "See you next time Pat, take care!" Ms. DeCarlo said her goodbyes, then Bill looked at me and asked, "Have you ever been to the Capitol Records Tower?" I said, "No." He said, "If you have time, I'll show you around." I said, "Yes, that would be great."

## 4. NEXT UP: THE LETTERMEN, THE FOUR FRESHMEN, AND THE CAPITOL TOWER

Bill had to stop at his office (I think next to Capitol Records) where he auditioned a group named The Lettermen. (Actually, the group had been around for awhile; I think this was to handle them and sign the group to Capitol Records.) Sounded a lot like The Freshmen, but more "pop" than jazz. I don't recall how that ended on that day, but I made friends with Tony Butala and The Lettermen did record for Capitol. When Bill took me to the Capitol Tower, I got the whole nine yards, as they say. I even got to see the "basement!" We walked into one of the control rooms where Bill (and I) were greeted. Then I looked in the studio, and there they were: Don, Ross, Bob, and Ken...The Four Freshmen! Yikes! I could not believe my eyes! I felt like a teeny-bopper. Bill asked if I wanted to meet The Four Freshmen. Of course, I calmly said yes. On the inside, I was going, "Yes, YES, YES!!!" The time frame here is a little fuzzy, but Don was still alive so I think it had to be June or July, 1961. For sure, it was before October. It was really great meeting the guys and Bill, but the best was yet to come.

## 5. THE LEGEND OF THE 5TH FRESHMAN IS CREATED

Leaving the Capitol Tower, Bill asked if I wanted to help with a small project back at his office. I had a lot of time on my hands, so I said, "Yes." The Four Freshmen fan letter was called "The Freshies" or something along that line. A new fan letter was created called "The 5th Freshman," and when we got back to Bill Wagner's office, the "project" was to hand address several thousand of the fan letters. It was Bill, myself, and another person (female, I don't recall her name). After a few hours, Ross arrived with coffee, donuts, and colas for all. After a short break we continued, with Ross joining the group. Ross and I talked a lot while addressing. Pretty soon we found out we had a few things in common, like playing pinball machines, and Ross discovered that I sang a little as I did a lot of singing and addressing. When we finally finished those letters, Ross said to me, "We should call you the 5th Freshman for all the work you did." I said, "Sounds good to me," and everyone laughed.

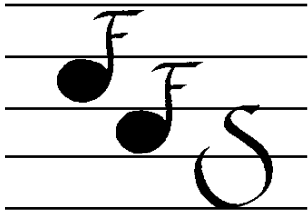
Ross and I left Bill's office and went down to Sunset Boulevard to an arcade. We played pinball and talked. He beat me 4 out of 7 games. Over the years, the guys and I saw a lot of each other and, depending on place, size, and attitude of the audience, the 5th Freshman would join The Four Freshmen, and it was a once in a lifetime event that one would never forget. Great fun for all!

The last time I saw Ross (and met Bill Comstock) was in Miami, Florida. They were playing at a small lounge near the Miami Airport on Lejune Road. I'm not sure of the date (late 60's/early 70's), but the guys were kind of quiet, and Ross looked very tired. He was happy to see me, but was not very talkative. There would be no 5th Freshman on this night (small room with a small crowd), or ever again for that matter.

## THE LEGENDARY SAGA OF THE 5TH FRESHMAN WAS OVER!

It was great fun for a lot of years! I had a few personal problems around that time and health issues myself. After seeing Ross and the guys in Miami, I lost track of The Four Freshmen and I guess I dropped out. When I got back to being myself, I was very pleased to find out The Four Freshmen are as strong as ever, and I am very proud and pleased to be a member of The Four Freshmen Society!

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