



Fresh News

Volume 32, No.4

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2018

Celebrating



Our President, **Neil Lantz**



LOOKING AHEAD

Following two great Four Freshmen concerts in Central Indiana the past weekend, August 24-25, I'm again thinking about the "maturing" age of so many Freshmen fans as we celebrate the group's 70th anniversary year. I often think about and occasionally bemoan the aging of our Society membership and the challenge we face in attracting the interest of younger generations in the wonderful music of the Four Freshmen. On a positive note, however, it was a joy to meet several younger fans at both of the recent concerts. While their numbers were minuscule out of the 2,000 people gathered for the free (sponsored) outdoor concert in Noblesville and the 600 in attendance for the performance as part of the 150th anniversary celebration of Columbus North High School (formerly Columbus High School, Ross and Don Barbour's alma mater), it was most encouraging to see several members of the younger generation enjoying Group #25. In fact, the youngsters shown here purchased copies of the vinyl recordings of *Four Freshmen and Friends* and were excited to have their copies autographed by the guys. Not only did the young fans in Columbus enjoy the great performance by the Freshmen, fourteen of the high schoolers, the 25th Street Jazz Singers, opened the concert with their sharp rendition of the Ellington/Strayhorn/Mercer jazz classic, *Satin Doll*. Earlier in the day, the ensemble had participated in a special instructional session with the guys. I'm confident the day will be long remembered by the young singers. Their polished evening performance was certainly enjoyed by the audience.

There's a point in all of this, and it suggests an opportunity (responsibility?) for all of us in the Society. As faithful fans of the Freshmen, some having enjoyed as much as 70 years of the wonderful sound begun by the original group at Butler University in 1948 and continued to the present by dedicated Groups #2 -25, I would suggest that it's our obligation to spread the word to future generations as much as possible.

Naturally, there has always been and will continue to be competing interest in many other genres of popular music, but appreciation of the

Eva (15) and Dylan (16) Carson from Chicago attended the Four Freshmen concert at their dad's high school in Columbus, IN on Saturday, August 25.



Geneva Salas and Kaylee Earle, both 10, with the Four Freshmen in Noblesville, IN on Friday, August 24.



Joshua DeGroat and Alex Farrar, both 16 and members of the Columbus North High School 25th Street Jazz Singers who performed the opening number for The Four Freshmen Concert on Saturday, August 25.



Four Freshmen sound has lasted for seven decades. Hopefully, it will be continued for many more. As dedicated fans, we can help make it happen by continuing to support the latest iteration of the group and the Society. How about inviting a young relative, friend, or neighbor to join you at a Four Freshmen concert? Or giving a Four Freshmen CD as a gift? Or better yet, introducing a friend to the Society by gifting a one-year FFS membership? Let's do what we can to spread the word about the Four Freshmen history and support the current guys. As well, let's work to ensure the uninterrupted FF future decades to come.

Seventy years have been great, but 80, 90, 100 and more will be even greater! Please help to make it happen – future generations of Freshmen fans should count on us.

Let's Have a Little FUN!

Editors note; Don't forget about the crazy picture contest. Whoever sends me the best and craziest picture of the Four Freshmen will have their picture on the cover of the July issue.

The Paper Airplanes of The Four Freshmen

By Mark (and Erin) Schlichting

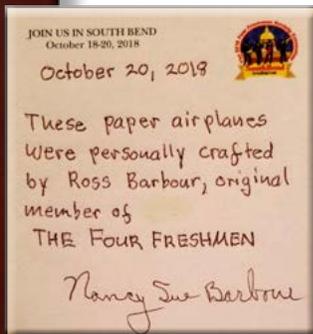
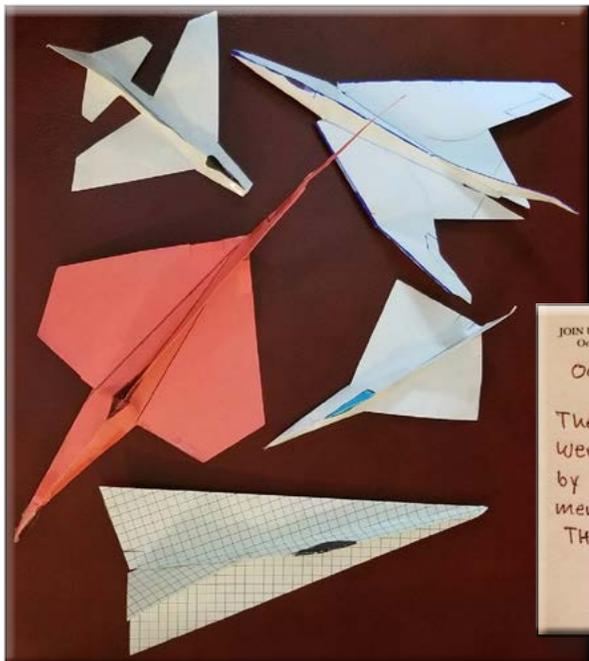
Established on September 20, 1948, the Four Freshmen began as an American vocal group that grew in popularity after being signed to Capitol Records in 1956 by one of their high profile fans, Stan Kenton. Brothers Ross and Don Barbour, who were freshmen at Butler University in 1948, added cousin Bob Flanigan and Hal Kratzsch (later Ken Albers) to the group. Well-known for their rich male vocal harmonies (originally rooted in Barbershop) they developed a vocal

dissonance which has been coveted and imitated to this day due to its ability to tug at listeners' heartstrings. The Four Freshmen sound has inspired the likes of The Beach Boys, The Hi-Lo's, The Manhattan Transfer, and The Singers Unlimited, to name a few. The current Four Freshmen members have maintained the vocal style of the original group and continue to be in demand world-wide. It is often said: "The legendary sound of the Four Freshmen is bigger and more significant than any one of its members." Thus, although the group's personnel have continued to change through the years, the unique vocal harmonies have remained as vibrant and creative as they were from the beginning.

While on the road, one of the favorite pastimes of Four Freshman Ross Barbour was to forage for any paper that might be in the hotel room, and start making paper airplanes. He would create his own



THE FOUR FRESHMEN (1956)
Left to Right: Ken Albers, Ross Barbour, Bob Flanigan, Don Barbour



Five paper airplanes that remain from literally thousands that were created by Ross Barbour during and after his time with The Four Freshmen. (How about a new album: "Four Freshmen and Five Paper Airplanes."...?)

designs and decorate the planes with colored pencils and pens and, of course, test their "airworthiness" with the other Freshmen. No two of his planes were exactly alike. His creative juices continued to flow after he left the



Freshmen and penned the book *Now You Know*, which chronicled the magnificent history of this legendary group during the time he was a member.

Nancy Sue Barbour, widow of original Four Freshmen member, Ross Barbour, on October 20, 2018, South Bend, IN

Barbour Family and the New Group

by Jon Gaines

Yesterday was a really special day for us in Columbus, Indiana. We played a show at the High School that Ross and Don Barbour attended in the town they grew up in, for an audience filled with family members and longtime fans. We did a workshop with a vocal group from that same high school. We talked about our shared love of harmony, and we got to connect with the origins of this great musical legacy that we are a part of. We are so grateful for the staff, crew, and audience that made the show so great. And, of course, we are grateful for the Four Young Men that started it 70 years ago.



Going Round “The Bend”

with The Four Freshmen

By Maurice Byrne

This year my wife, Mary, took the trip with me to the FFS Convention to keep me safe and out of trouble. Being one of the Fighting Irish, I managed to get thrown out of one bar - that was the hotel bar.

We took a bus to the University Plaza Mall and were asked for ID by the bus driver when we said we were seniors. Needless to say, we were both very flattered.

As for The Four Freshmen, this group is getting better and better every time I see them, if that is even possible. We loved hearing the new songs as well as the old favorites. It was great meeting old friends and making new ones. I sang at the Thursday night JAM Session and did not forget the words (to Mary's relief). We went to the Studebaker Museum and saw the very last Studebaker ever made, which was made in my hometown, Hamilton, Ontario, in 1966 —coincidentally the same year I arrived in Canada.

A romantic moment happened at our table during the Saturday night dinner. Jack, who was attending his first convention, proposed to Louise. Upon hearing this news, The Freshmen serenaded the lovebirds.

My “fresh memory” was when I found myself standing behind Stein Malvey while in line for a coffee at the South Bend airport. I tapped him on the shoulder and said, “Aren't you Stein?” To which he quipped, “not if I owe you money!”

Can't wait for Denver, Colorado in 2019!



The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

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

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Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

November 30, 2018

Walhalla, SC

Walhalla Performing Arts Center, Walhalla Civic Auditorium
101 E North Broad St.

Showtime: 7:30p

Tickets: 864-638-5277

December 14, 2018

Indianapolis, IN

The Jazz Kitchen, 5377 North College Ave.

Showtimes: 7:00p & 9:00p

Reservations: 317-253-4900

December 15, 2018

Zanesville, OH

Seacrest Auditorium, 334 Shinnick St.

Showtime: 7:30p

Box Office: 740-688-0871

December 22-24, 2018

Tokyo, Japan

The Cotton Club, 2-7-3 Tokia 2F, Marunouchi Chiyoda-Ku

Showtimes: 5:15p & 8:30p

Reservations: 03-3215-1555

(please telephone to make reservations in English)

December 25, 2018

Tokyo, Japan

The Cotton Club, 2-7-3 Tokia 2F, Marunouchi Chiyoda-Ku

Showtimes: 6:15p & 9:00p

Reservations: 03-3215-1555

(please telephone to make reservations in English)

December 27-28, 2018

Beijing, China

Blue Note Beijing, 23 Qianmen East St., Dongcheng District

Showtimes: 7:30p & 10:00p

Tickets: 17000000288 (11:00-21:00)

2019

January 12, 2019

Arlington Heights, IL

Metropolis Performing Arts Center, 111 West Campbell St.

Showtimes: TBA

Tickets: 847-577-2121

January 27, 2019

Reading, PA

Pops 50th Anniversary Celebration, Reading Pops Orchestra,

Miller Center for the Arts, 4 North Second St.

Showtime: 3:00p

Tickets: 610-607-6270

February 19, 2019

Wichita, KS

The Coach House, 3207 E Douglas Ave.

Showtime: 7:30p

Tickets: 316-612-7696

February 22, 2019

North Hollywood, CA

El Portal Theatre, 5269 Lanershim Blvd.

Showtime: 8:00p

Tickets: 818-508-4200

February 24, 2019

San Juan Capistrano, CA

The Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano

Showtime: 7:00p

Tickets/dinner reservations: 949-496-8930

March 20, 2019

Abingdon, VA

Barter Theatre, 127 W Main St.

Showtime: 7:00p

March 24, 2019

Sarasota, FL

Glenridge Performing Arts Center, 7333 Scotland Way

Showtime: 2:00p

Tickets: 941-552-5325

April 13, 2019

Redwood City, CA

Fox Theater, 2215 Broadway St.

Salute to Glenn Miller and The Big Band Leaders

Showtime: 2:00p

Tickets: 650-298-3427

The Freshmen at Franklin, NC

By Preston Stevens

We really loved the venue and the concert on September 1st in Franklin, NC. The house was not completely full, possibly because it was a later booking and there was no mention in the local media. Franklin is a large mountain town with a lot of seniors so many fans missed the show. The crowd was enthusiastic and stood during the last two numbers. There was a lot of energy in the audience and on the stage. The new guys have a special zing that I love. Tommy is responsible for a lot of the crispness I remember hearing with Flan. Jon has certainly come into his own. Marian and I later said to him "Curtis Calderon move over!" Stein is keeping up the Comstock legend and had a couple of long solos which the crowd much appreciated. I spoke with Bob and showed him a photo I took of him at the 1992 gig in Rock Hill, South Carolina. The guys all loved it because Bob had a full head of hair!

The next day we were re-hashing with a friend who asked Marian and me to name the three favorite songs we heard. We couldn't agree on any, they were all so terrific. Then **Route 66** was mentioned and that got our enthusiastic agreement!

The Four Freshmen On the Wings of Song

by Gil Petersen

When I was submitting this article for the last edition of *Fresh News*, I learned from Barb Meyers, our editor, that Bob Ferreira had already submitted an eloquent article about the May 25th concert in Roseburg, Oregon. So, it was decided to hold my article for this edition.

Bob's article was extremely complimentary and though I don't think I deserve his accolades, I am deeply appreciative for his very kind words. Through the years, I have been fortunate to have maintained a very special relationship with the Freshmen. I have thoroughly enjoyed hosting them each time they have performed here in Roseburg. Their visits have always been delightful and memorable in every way. I will cherish this relationship forever and beyond. Thank you Group 25. You were simply outstanding as always.

The Freshmen arrived at Roseburg's newest hotel, The Hampton Inn, on May 24th. They took a few moments to settle in and put away their gear. Then we were off to Lynn Engle's beautiful hillside home overlooking the Umpqua Valley. Lynn, a Four Freshmen Society member, hosted the guys for a lovely dinner, highlighted by perfect cocktails and tender fillet mignon. Lynn also surprised Tommy with a special dish since he is a vegetarian. What a lovely evening; even the weather was perfect.

On Friday the 25th, I met the Freshmen at the hotel and we proceeded to Umpqua Community College to conduct a masters' class. Jason Heald, the Music Director at the College, directs a group known as the Umpqua Singers who perform modern jazz vocal harmony. Jason is one of the most creative persons I have ever known. Not only does he write the group's arrangements, but he also writes numerous original compositions they perform. The Freshmen did several songs for them and then had the Umpqua Singers perform. The Freshmen then critiqued the group with some well put suggestions and encouragement. It was also interesting watching them teach and communicate so easily with these students. Very Impressive!

After the masters' class, we had lunch and proceeded to the venue location for a sound check. We were in Bill and Patti Woods' corporate hangar. Being a pilot for over fifty years, I have been in numerous hangars. However, I must say, I have never been in a hangar that was so pristine that you could, in fact, eat off the floor. Inside the closed hangar, facing the stage, was a gorgeous Falcon 10 Jet. Facing the jet was Patti's futuristic Lexus 500lc...one of the most beautiful vehicles I have ever seen. What a setting!!!!

The evening started with a wonderful classically trained guitarist, Charley Thompson, who entertained us through the social hour. Next, The Jazz Insiders performed. They are a marvelous local Jazz quartet that includes Jason Heald, and they were simply superb. We are incredibly fortunate to have such amazingly talented individuals here in our community.

I introduced the Four Freshmen, as I have done so many times in the past, as "the number one jazz vocal harmony group in the history of the music industry." Group 25 performed flawlessly. The audience was totally mesmerized by the iconic sounds of the Freshmen. Some of the younger audience members attending had never heard of the Four Freshmen. I think we acquired a number of new fans that evening from the comments I heard from them.

During the second set, they performed a song that I had requested. Greg Stegeman wrote the arrangement and the Freshmen did a masterful rendering of this emotionally sensitive musical jewel written by Paul Williams and Kenny Ascher. I don't think anyone breathed while they were performing this haunting ballad. There was just no oxygen left in the room when they finished. This was the first time they had performed this song in a concert. I think they were planning to include this song in one of their sets at the convention this year. So, perhaps you have heard **With One More Look At you**. If so, I don't think you will soon forget it

Best Fresh wishes to all!

WHERE DO MY MEMBERSHIP DUES GO?

Annual membership dues are required for membership in the Four Freshmen Society (FFS). Here's how your dues are used:

- Not for labor :) The FFS is all volunteers. No one is paid to do Society work; there's no paid staff.
- *Fresh News* Newsletter is published quarterly and is full of information and member stories to help members learn about the upcoming convention, Four Freshmen gigs, latest CD releases, to gain access to the Merchandise Mart, and so much more.
- We honor 10- and 20-year contiguous memberships by special lapel pin.
- A mailing list is maintained for the newsletter and other mailings to FFS members. All mailing expenses are paid by the FFS.
- As an FFS member, you gain access to the annual FFS convention, organized and put on by a committee of volunteers. The annual meeting offers a bonding —the Four Freshmen— and fans from all over the world!
- The FFS often purchases items for the Freshmen -- clothing and sometimes instruments and cases, replacements for damaged items, publicity photographs and posters.
- The FFS pays travel/housing expenses to the annual FFS Convention for the Four Freshmen.
- Four Freshmen recordings on CDs are usually produced by the FFS.
- Transition expenses for bringing new Freshmen into the group are paid by the FFS.

Your annual dues of \$25 (or \$20/year when renewing for multiple years at once) stretch far beyond what's listed above in benefits and expenses. As a FFS member, you are part of the greatest fan club in the world for a group of hard working, skilled and talented young men who, after 70 years, continue to perform one of the greatest historical legacies in American music!

You can renew your membership at any time by going to dues.fourfreshmensociety.com; please do!

Dearest Freshmen Community

I can't believe it has been over three years since I joined the Four Freshmen! (And I still haven't written anything for Fresh News!!!)

When I joined the group in January of 2015, I was 25 and teaching at Southwestern Community College in Creston, IA, juggling both the Freshmen and teaching for one semester of amazing memories and quite a bit less sleep. My mother, Kay, whom many of you have met at the conventions by now, was an educator for (I believe) 42 years, and it's easy to say her model as an educator was one of the two reasons I knew I had to be a music teacher. The other thing that sealed the deal for me is likely the same reason many of you are here: really great harmony. I was always obsessed. I joined a boy choir when I was in elementary school and haven't stopped trying to ring chords, and slot the right tone since. In middle school, I didn't sing in the actual school choir cause it was just a massive gathering of kids unsure why they have to be there and too concerned with how confusing puberty is to even think about the totally lame music a middle school choir is going to perform. Instead, I joined the school's small vocal ensemble called the Sunrise Singers... a group that met at 6:45am before school to sing... the real nerds. Right where I belonged. (My sister Emily was also in this group.) The boy choir I had sung in was part of a program called Young Voices of Colorado, a group that led to some amazing opportunities, such as being a soprano soloist at Carnegie Hall in 2002, singing at Ground Zero, and many more deeply powerful moments to share and experience music. I stayed with Young Voices until I went to high school, where I was fortunate enough to have a passionate vocal music program. There I was able to really dig into some amazing harmony, led by some wonderful choir directors, and by the time I was 14 I knew I needed to be a choir director, where I could share my love for harmony, and facilitate a space for music and gathering.

After a year in the music education program at the University of Northern Colorado, I realized that the best place for me to dig into the harmony I love was in the corn fields of Iowa to study at Southwestern Community College's School for Music Vocations... in that town I mentioned...

By Tommy Boynton

Creston. 7,000 people, and one of the biggest towns in the southwest corner of Iowa. Aurora, where I grew up, was the 3rd or 4th largest city in Colorado... but the isolation and setting of Creston was perfect. Hang out with people who are ready to be in the middle of nowhere to learn the ways of harmony. Those two years of education were some of the most valuable I can imagine, and if you know anyone who truly loves music and wants it to be a part of their life forever in any capacity, whether its a career, or a best friend forever, I recommend you send them to SWCC. Any level of musician eager to put the time into the vocation is welcome. A guy named Brian Eichenberger also went there in 90s... many of you likely know the rest of that story.

Two of my particularly influential teachers from SWCC went to the New England Conservatory in Boston, and recommend it to me. NEC is a dreamland. I can't express how much I loved my two years in that program.



Initially, I went just to be around people like Fred Hersch, who teaches there, and whose playing I adore more than most things. I went to just maybe see him play, never did I imagine studying with him and performing alongside him. But the endlessly talented and inspiring faculty is just a fraction of how special it was to be there. My peers and best friends became my biggest influences. Playing four square and soccer with musicians like Cristian Budu, Yannick Rafalimanana, and Henrique Eisenmann, all piano players who you should hear (YouTube them). My roommate then and now, Brendan O'Donnell, a fantastic violinist and violist, is still inspiring me to this day. (We have a duo project called The Mimzees, a composition project of mine with a meaningless name where I compose contemporary song cycles for the two of us to play.) My memories and inspirations from those days are still filling me full. Maybe I'll go into some detail in another *Fresh News* someday.

After NEC, I landed a gig as adjunct professor at SWCC. I taught solo jazz voice, guitar, bass, theory, ear training, studio engineering, psychology of success, directed instrumental ensembles, and directed the school's concert choir. I joined a folk band called The River Monks who's front man, Ryan, is still one of my best friends, and I play in his current band, Extravision. At the beginning of my third year teaching, Brian Eichenberger called my boss to see if he knew anyone that could sing and play. I love being part of the Four Freshmen so much. I can't believe my love for harmony, swing, and music has led me to make such great music with such great guys, and I hope it shows when I'm sharing it live. Certainly some day I'll go back to teaching, but for now, I'm enjoying every minute of this: the swing, the harmony, the friendship, and having the time and energy to write music, ride my bicycle, have two amazing cats, and play piano on the side. It's a total dream I never saw coming.

Perhaps the next time I write to you I'll likely just talk about an album I like, or a fond memory, but I wanted to first share a little bit of what led me to the Four Freshmen. Until then, I hope all of you are well, and thank you so much for your years of love for this great music. It's truly special how deeply so many people love the Four Freshmen, and I'm honored to sing the part. May we share this love together in person some day soon!

With love,
Tommy

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

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5 Trombones/5 Trumpets	\$15.00		
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Culmination - Greg Stegeman (*)	\$15.00		
Faux Freshmen - Scratchin' the Surface	\$10.00		
Faux Freshmen - Seasons of the Heart	\$10.00		
Faux Freshmen - Unsung	\$15.00		
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Through the Years (*)	\$15.00		
Voices in Brass/In Person Vol. 1	\$15.00		
Voices in Standards	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen and Friends LP	\$20.00		
"Now You Know" (Leather Bound Book)	\$100.00		
Book is \$120 for orders outside US			

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In 1979, the Airmen of Note under the direction of Dave Steinmeyer had a concert at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. They had, as their guests, The Four Freshmen (group 6). That concert was preserved from the sound board by Dave Barnes. It was then cleaned up by Paul Halac. The result was a "new" CD of the Four Freshmen Live at Constitution Hall in 1979, backed by the Airmen of Note, the premier jazz ensemble of the U.S. Air Force. The Music Mart has embarked on a plan to find and release these rare recordings, particularly in years when there is no new CD from the Freshmen themselves. While the Society has done this in the past, we will now try to be more aggressive in this endeavor. We hope to have a "new" CD ready for each convention. We hope you enjoy this new material. Barbara Emerson

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