

The Fresh Four are **FRESH!**

By Trudy Feigum

What a privilege it was for 2019 convention-goers to hear and see The Fresh Four, an enthusiastic quartet of 18-year-old young men who harmonized in a few Four Freshmen classics as they opened for the Freshmen Saturday night in Denver. In true Freshmen fashion, all played instruments and sang.

Tristan Butler, Gio Pignotti, Christian Michaelis, and Ethan Mills grabbed the attention of Dave Bentley, treasurer of the Four Freshmen Music Foundation (FFMF), in the fall of 2018 when Dave was contacted by Ethan with a video of the group and a question about getting a Freshmen chart to learn. Not only did the foursome love the Freshmen music, Ethan said, they had been teaching themselves the harmonies after hearing a couple of Freshmen LPs. Dave suggested the four might be eligible for an FFMF grant to help them further their interests to learn Freshmen harmonies.

An initial FFMF grant to The Fresh Four—then known as Los Caballeros de Dreyfoos, paying tribute to the Dreyfus School of Arts high school they attended in West Palm Beach—was followed by a second grant that helped secure a workshop for the young quartet taught by the Four Freshmen at the convention. Their performance Saturday night left no one to wonder if these young men warranted the Foundation's support!

In addition to obtaining the grants from the Four Freshmen Music Foundation and being flown to Denver to perform, The Fresh Four were recognized as the 2019/20 "Young Artist Award" winners by the Society for the Preservation of the Great American Songbook, September 9, 2019.

There should be no question the unique harmonies of the Four Freshmen appeal to all generations!

Dear Four Freshmen Society,

From time to time it is said, "I don't get these kids or their music today," or "there just isn't any good music out there." These statements, to put it simply, are not true! The preservation of music and the passion to pass it forward is generational. There will always be kids out there eager to learn the harmonic sounds. Kids like: Glenn Miller, Mel Torme, The Four Freshmen, Brian Wilson and the Beach Boys or our very own Fresh Four. Thank you to all the individuals who strive to leave a musical legacy to the next generation. Individuals like Selby Mills, who never threw out those Four Freshmen records to be discovered by her grandson. Like Mr. David Bentley, who chose not to ignore some random kid emailing and calling him to ask for sheet music. Or the members of the Four Freshmen who have never stopped singing unbelievable great songs for over seventy years. And lastly, like the Four Freshmen Foundation and Society members, who understand, when it's great music, never let it go and definitely pass it on!

The Fresh Four send their sincere thank you to all. It was an incredible weekend and we will never forget your hospitality.

We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Sincerely,

Ethan Mills, Christian Michaelis,
Giovanni Pignotti and Tristan Butler
The Fresh Four

