



Volume 34, No.4

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2020

REMEMBER THE DATE: Bay City June 9-11, 2021



We're waiting for you.









Our President, **Donna Gallaway**



GREETINGS Fresh Fans

I pray that all of you and your families have been staying healthy and listening to some Fresh music during this pandemic. I was fortunate to make the trip to Nashville, Indiana in August to see the Freshmen perform. What a joy to see and hear them live once again exhibiting that energy we so admire coming from the stage. Of course, we were all in masks as were the Freshmen part of the time, but it is not easy to sing or play a horn in a mask! I find it interesting to observe the choices of mask design that people wear. I had on my Route 66 mask and told Bob I was getting four more made for the Freshmen. Those masks are ready to send.

As you are all aware, it is next to impossible for live performances to be happening during these uncertain times. Schedules have been changed or canceled completely, so we are forced to turn to other means of listening to our favorite music. Thankfully, we have our CDs, albums or the internet access to download the songs we love to hear or even the radio in some cases. Our Board of Directors has authorized loans to the Freshmen in the past to help them finance recordings, and all of us have been eager for a new recording to own and enjoy as well as to sell in our Music Mart. Dave Bentley, who is a member of the Board, proposed a different way to assist the Freshmen to do a new CD. Dave has been sending out letters to members asking for donation to a fund tagged as "Future Freshmen" dedicated to that purpose. Many of you have already received such a letter and have made generous

donations, so Dave's efforts have been very successful. It is gratifying to know that we as individuals working collectively can help make some new music happen! If you would like more information regarding this fund, feel free to contact Dave Bentley at the number listed by his name in Board of Directors area.

We always encourage you to invite friends or family to join FFS, or you can gift a membership to someone. Why not share your love of some of the best music our ears can hear! Keep the Fresh sound alive and spreading any way you can!

FN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2020

An Interesting Year

A Note From: Bob Ferreira

Hello fans and friends. To say that 2020 has been challenging would be the understatement of the year. I know that we have all been facing our own personal challenges whether to do with health, business, financial, or otherwise. It is our sincere wish that you all are staying safe and healthy.

The entertainment business has been especially affected by this pandemic. Performing arts centers, jazz clubs, music festivals, and anywhere people normally congregate to enjoy live entertainment have been devastated by the measures and mandates put in place to ensure our public safety. This doesn't even account for the countless numbers of musicians, dancers, and actors the world over who have temporarily lost their livelihoods from these shutdowns. Las Vegas, where I reside, has been hit particularly hard in this sector as there have been casino properties that have laid off their ENTIRE entertainment staffs for many of their locations! We are talking hundreds of stage crew, showroom staff, box offce staff, and entertainers out of a job in just one city which doesn't even include all the clubs, restaurants and smaller venues that have housed live entertainment. It is simply unprecedented.

In over 28 years of being a member of this storied group I have never gone more than two months without performing at least one show. We have had one show in six months and we were over the moon to have still been able to perform that one show in Nashville, IN!

We are all going through a tough time, but I would like to make a plea to all of you out there:

If you are concerned with the future of the arts and wish to see live performances and arts remain an integral part of our culture in the future, then please do what you can to support those hard working artists who perform as well as the venues out there that host live entertainment. They are all struggling.

Support might be in the form of a financial donation to your favorite theater, having dinner or drinks at a local club or restaurant that might host live music (even if they are not able to host live entertainment at the time), or buying merchandise from a local band, musician, or artist. Just sending a letter or note of support to any of these artists or venues can mean the world and show them all that they are not forgotten and that you all will be there for them when this COVID cloud has lifted.

Music and art has gotten us all through so many of life's trials and tribulations and has a profound impact on shaping memories and the chapters in all of our lives in unique and personal ways. I know that we will get through all of this together and we will all be raring to create new celebrations and memories. The Frosh are patiently awaiting the moment we get our chance to create new memories for you all, but in the meantime, please stay safe, stay healthy, be kind to loved ones and strangers alike, and know that this too shall pass and when it finally does we can actually say, "Hindsight is 2020."



The masks come in black or grey with the Four Freshmen logo.

They are three layers of 100% cotton.

Cost is \$10 each.

Limited quantity, so order now!

Go to:

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Fourfreshmen.com/shop



Nashville, Indiana was FABULOUS!

by Dave Mehl

The Four Freshmen's gig on August 21 in Nashville, Indiana was FABULOUS!

After six long months with no gigs because of the COVID-19 virus, the guys were great! The audience was extremely enthusiastic from the first number on and gave spontaneous and hearty standing ovations at the end and after the encore, *In This Whole Wide World.*

There was a surprise. Curtis Calderon was back as a sub. He played guitar and sang the 2nd part. We all know he is a very gifted musician---but on guitar too? You better believe it

And, he also played trumpet on several numbers, reaching the stratosphere on some and did some tasty and most enjoyable "dueling trumpet" tunes with Jake Baldwin.

The voices blended together extremely well! The program was ambitious and well thought out, starting with *Day In, Day Out* featuring an impressive trumpet solo by Jake and instantly winning him a lot of admirers.

They did a variety of "old Freshmen standards" like *You Stepped Out of a Dream*, *Angel Eyes* and *Poinciana*. *It's a Blue World* brought me to neartears. It was the best rendition I have heard in all my years (since 1948) as a fan.

Some of the newer things were Let Me Love You, So Danco Samba, Ain't Seen Nothin' Like You and Misguided Optimism.

I was particularly interested in hearing Jake Baldwin for the first time. Wow! He sang the third part strongly, sang several tasty solos and played exceptional jazz trumpet. He played bass trumpet on a few tunes, including *Day by Day* which reminded one of Bob Flanigan's trombone. He is a great addition to the group.

Tommy's lead voice was pitch-perfect and strong. He sang a solo tune, *Strolling*, a Horace Silver song that Tommy adapted singing the second trumpet part with lyrics while Jake played the top melody part. It was originally written for two trumpets. The audience loved it.

Bob's vocal solos were right on and he played drum solos on *There Will Never Be Another You* and on Jake's original horn composition entitled, *Misguided Optimism*, a real cool tune. His comments were informative and thoughtful with just the right amount of humor thrown in.

The Brown County Playhouse was a perfect venue, both acoustically and for their diligence in protecting the audience from the virus. We need to get the guys back there soon, as it is so very close to where the original players came from.

Overall, It was a most enjoyable and memorable evening and truly a treat to be there!

Do your best to join them in their upcoming shows. You will be so glad you did!

- Sunday, November 15 in Largo, Florida
- Monday, November 16 in Fort Myers, Florida
- Sunday, January 24 in Malibu, California.



News from the editor.

We are seeking those of you who want to tell their story about "How I first Heard the Four Freshmen."

I will publish them in future Fresh News depending on room.

How I First Heard The Four Freshmen

by Chuck Curran, SC

How I first heard met...

While in Pittsburgh the 50s and 60s I had seen the Freshmen in concert, I first met The Four Freshmen in 1977 when they traveled to South Carolina with the Four Lads, the Pied Pipers, and the Ink Spots. After the show at the University of South Carolina's Coliseum, I snuck backstage and cornered Bob Flanigan and told him a story. I thought it was a great story, but Bob seemed unimpressed. Now, 43 years later, I think I agree with him.

Here is the story:

In 1958 I was stationed with the Third Infantry in Arlington, VA. When I learned that the Hi Los were coming to town, I and a fellow soldier, both of us fans of The Four Freshmen and the Hi Los, caught two shows. In between shows, I saw Gene Puerling and Clark Burroughs in a booth and I decided to ask them a question I had long wondered about. In Downbeat I had read a feature article in which the Hi Los discussed The Four Freshmen. They said they thought The Four Freshmen were attempting things beyond their technical abilities. So I interrupted their conversation with two fans and asked them what they meant by that. I think the technical term for that behavior is "being a jerk."

When the Hi Los came on for their second show, they introduced themselves thusly: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, we are The Four Freshmen. At the time I thought they were reacting to my intrusion, but I think that was just their shtick—something they did regularly.

You know the discomfort you feel when you tell someone a story, and the look in that someone's eyes says, "When will this story end?" Bob Flanigan endured, but I could tell he wished he were elsewhere.

Subsequently, I have had many wonderful encounters over the 23 times I have seen The Four Freshmen perform. My copy of *Now You Know* bears the autographs of 18 Freshmen, including Bob Flanigan! Greg Stegman was very kind to me at the 50th in Las Vegas. Ross Barbour once chatted with me for 45 minutes over the phone. In brief aftershow conversations with Stein, Curtis, and Bob, they were always cordial, happy, and appreciative to be talking with fans.

Long live The Four Freshmen!

by Bill Martin, KY

I could certainly relate to Chaz Cone's experience (*Fresh News*, July-August-September 2020) when he first exposed his mother's ears to The Four Freshmen sound, where she responded, "They sing off-key."

When I became a teen, I discovered the sound of George Shearing and began playing his arrangements. If I was playing one when a neighbor dropped in, I would hear my mother apologetically say, "Billy isn't playing the wrong chords—that's the way the music is written."

When I was still a teen, I started playing piano with a local orchestra. It was then I discovered Stan Kenton. I had never heard such a big sound. Of course it wasn't long before I heard Stan's discovery—a smaller group that also had a big sound—The Four Freshmen. My orchestra leader played trombone, so he purchased the LP, *Four Freshmen and Five Trombones*. The song I first heard from that album was *Speak Low*. I immediately knew that gorgeous sound would be with me for life.

In my early twenties, I was hired by an engineering firm in Columbus, Ohio. It was a big city with lots to do, but every weekend I was traveling back to Kentucky to visit my family and bride-to-be, Phyllis. We married in February, 1958. No longer was I traveling much, so I got to read a Columbus newspaper and find out what the city had to offer on the weekends. You can imagine my excitement when I came across an ad that announced a concert with George Shearing, Stan Kenton, and The Four Freshmen.

I thought I had died and gone to Heaven. I bought tickets, and Phyllis and I were there when the doors opened. George Shearing was first to perform and was a delight to hear in person. Next, the announcer introduced The Four Freshmen. I thought he had made a mistake as the Kenton Orchestra had not yet come on stage. I did not know that the Freshmen could accompany themselves. When they ran on stage with their instruments and hit *Somebody Loves Me*, we were blown away! I didn't know such a big sound could come from four voices and such few instruments.

Needless to say, we became lifelong fans, having attended countless concerts through the years. We attended our first FFS convention in 1990 at Springfield, Ohio, and have missed very few since. Getting to meet the Freshmen, their families and all the great fans has been an indescribable pleasure!

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hi everyone,

Hope you are all staying well. I want to thank you all for the articles "When Did You First Hear The Four Freshmen." It seems that you all are liking them and I am certainly getting some great ones.

If you don't see your article in this edition of the *Fresh News*, be patient, I will get to them in order as they come in.

Barb Meyers

How I First Heard The Four Freshmen... A Philco Radio, Lorainne, and a Guy Named Bill

Bob Ferreira has asked me more than once how I came to be a fan of the Four Freshmen. My expedient answer is, "By marriage." The real answer (and why I don't often tell it) requires more time. My coming to be a fan kind of evolved.

Without telling my age, my family had one of those large Philco radios. You know, the tall, wooden beauty that sat on the floor? Not only did I listen to *The Lone Ranger, Superman*, and *Sky King*, but that's how I first heard the Four Freshmen. I recall *It's A Blue World* and wondered at the time why freshmen were singing such a mournful song. Did they miss being in junior high?

Growing up in Colorado, my teen-aged friends and I listened to Country/Western music. Amid the likes of Johnny Cash, Faron Young, Buck Owens and Patsy Cline, I learned to play the alto sax and the piano and discovered how much I enjoy singing—at school and in the church choir. Plus, I spent many Saturday nights in front of the TV with my dad watching and dancing to the Lawrence Welk Show.

When I married Tom I was introduced to jazz. Stan Kenton, Stan Getz, Dizzy Gillespie, Dave Brubeck, Bill Evans...and the vocals of Ella, Sue Raney, the Singers Unlimited, Mel Tormé...and the terrific big bands of Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Tommy Dorsey (we both love to dance).

One night Tom took me to see a very favorite group of his, The Four Freshmen. They were appearing at a local nightspot in Denver, Taylor's Supper Club. We sat at a small table, close to the stage and were among the youngest people in the room. Tom asked if I'd heard the Freshmen? I had heard them a few times on my parents' Philco radio, I said. Little did I know. The tunes and lyrics the guys sang were familiar, but different than anything I'd ever heard. I was enjoying myself immensely, laughing at Bob Flanigan's antics and watching and listening to the guys play off each other. Then it happened. Ross Barbour swung into his rendition of Sweet Lorraine. You know the one in his Leroy voice? I couldn't believe a singer would purposely make his voice squeak like that. And, he was having so much fun. Ross knew I was intrigued and really hammed it up. I was smitten!

We saw the Freshmen a couple more times in Denver and bought some of their LPs before we settled in Pierre, SD in 1978 for our working years. Tom and I owned and operated Feigum Funeral Home and I was executive director of the South Dakota Dental Association and the South Dakota Dental Foundation. Toward the end of the 1990s, Tom suggested we invite a recent widower to join us for Thanksgiving dinner. His son—a guy named

by Trudy Feigum, VA

Bill—was still in town and would join us. Sitting comfortably around our dining table, conversation turned to music. Imagine our surprise to learn the guy named Bill was Bill Byrne, road manager and trumpeter with the Woody Herman Band. Bill asked if we knew Bob Flanigan with The Four Freshmen, describing his talent on the trombone as top-notch. Bill and Bob were good friends and what stories Bill told! Before leaving, Bill asked if we'd heard about The Four Freshmen Society? He told us it is the Freshmen fan club and meets once a year around the country. He encouraged us to find out more.

The first year after Tom and I retired—2000—we decided to attend the Four Freshmen Society Convention in Colorado Springs. Group #21 headlined: Brian, Greg, Vince and Bob. Wow! This was it for me. I may have been smitten with their sound back in the 60s and 70s, but experiencing their wonderful harmonies at this convention was where I fell in love with the Four Freshmen. Believe it or not, this same convention is when I first suggested the need to develop a foundation. And, using a familiar phrase, Now You Know!

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 P.O. Box 256, McGregor, TX 76657

Phone: 661-259-4500 Email: <u>ivimanagement@me.com</u>

Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

Due to the current health restrictions, please be sure to keep up with the status of concerts online.

November 15, 2020 Largo, FL

Central Park Performing Arts Center, 105 Central Park Dr Show times: 2:00p and 7:00p Tickets: 727-587-6793

January 24, 2021 Malibu, CA

Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts, 24255 Pacific Coast Hwy

Show time: 2:00p Tickets: 310-506-4522 **Eawrenceburg, TN**

Crockett Theatre, 203 North Military Ave Show time: 7:00p Tickets: 961-762-4231

February 17, 2021 Green Valley, AZ

Community Performance and Arts Center, 1250 W Continental Rd Show times: 3:00p and 7:00p Tickets: 520-300-1750

February 18, 2021 Scottsdale, AZ

ASU Kerr Cultural Center, 6110 N Scottsdale Rd

Show time: 7:30p Tickets: 480-596-2660 (Tickest on sale later)

March 26, 2021 The Villages, FL

Laurel Manor Recreation Center, 1545 Buena Vista Blvd

Show time: 7:00p Residents Only!

Fund raiser for the Bob Washington Jazz Scholorship

June 9-11, 2021 Bay City, MI

Four Freshmen Convention & Reunion Doubletree Hotel, One Wenonah Park Place

Open only to members of the Four Freshmen Society.

December 5, 2021 Horseshoe Bay, TX

Quail Point

Show time: 4:30p Tickets: TBA

The Four Freshmen Society inc.

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\$100.00			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
	\$15.00 \$15.00	\$15.00 \$15.00	\$15.00 \$15.00

\$4 per LP for US orders

Foreign Country: actual shipping costs for CDs and LPs, \$20 for "Now You Know" book

Total

(*) Available to Members Only

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

Barbara Emerson

you enjoy this new material.

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2. Apr/May/June - March 15 1. Jan/Feb/March - Dec 01

4. Oct/Nov/Dec - Sept 15 3. July/Aug/Sept - June 15

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Two or more years \$20 each year

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