



Fresh News

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OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2024

Our Four Freshmen "WOWED"



Ryan, Tommy, Jake, and Bob with Mount Baker, in Lynden, Washington USA

The Lynden Music Festival!



The Four Freshmen Headline A Sensational Music Festival!

By Mark Schlichting

Lynden, Washington, USA, with a population of only 16,797, is the home of the largest Dutch settlement in the State of Washington, and it is the heart of the region's dairy and berry producing farmland. More importantly, it is a town that largely leaves its doors unlocked 24/7, greets visitors with open arms, and loves to celebrate life's simpler things.

And when The Four Freshmen arrived, WOW did the town of Lynden CELEBRATE!

Freshman Bob Ferreira said on more than one occasion during his visit that he felt like he was a cast member in a "Hallmark Christmas Movie!" Everything was so traditional, simple, functional, and beautiful! **What a community!**

Wednesday:

The boys flew into Seattle on Wednesday, October 9, and as they drove north to Lynden, the 12:00 noon **Opening Ceremonies** were taking place at the **Jansen Arts Center** on Front Street in Lynden. The **Dmitri Matheny Quintet** from Seattle was performing as was **Folkert-Hans Tolsma** from Holland, and **Sherman Andrus**, a member of the legendary, Grammy winning vocal group, **The Imperials**. **Terhi Broersma**, Co-Chair of the event, tickled the keys of her accordion and Mayor **Scott Korthuis** greeted the many music enthusiasts who flooded the hall beyond capacity.



After arriving at their new digs at **The Inn at Lynden**, our boys refreshed themselves, and then went up the street to the **Steakhouse 9** to enjoy a gourmet meal before venturing into the adjoining Reception Hall to lend an ear to the Opening Night music which featured Dmitri's Quintet with music of **Henry Mancini** on the **100th** year of his birth.

At intermission, Jake, Tommy, and Bob entered the hall, dressed in black from head to toe, and bigger than life! Their adoring fans enthusiastically applauded, and many photos, hugs, and handshakes ensued. **A great opening night!**



Tommy and Society Chairman Gil Peterson pause for a snapshot during the opening night festivities



Here's Bob, getting up close and personal with a quartet of Lovely Lynden Ladies from the Festival Committee!



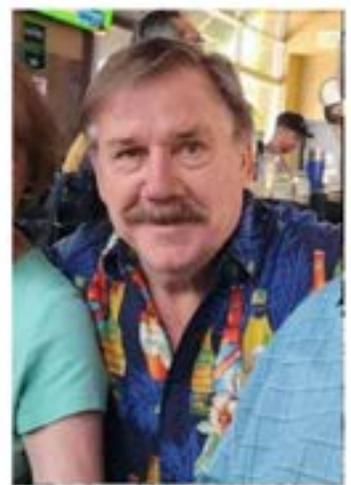
Jake and Society Historian Chris Rank hob-nob at the opening night celebration.



"Why do we need to fly half-way across the country to see our kid?" mused Bob and Kay Boynton, who flew from Denver to hear Tommy play with The Freshmen.



Jake Baldwin and Dmitri Matherly, two virtuoso jazz trumpeters, talk shop and compare notes during a break in Wednesday night concert. The boys let Ryan stay back to rest his voice for the days ahead.



Wes Sorstrikke, an International Barbershop Champion, was the Freshmen's "handler" during the visit.

Thursday:

More than 125 students, parents, teachers and interested observers converged on the WECU Pavilion at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds in anticipation of a workshop and Master Class with **The Four Freshmen**. Spirits were high as the students entered the hall, grabbed a complimentary Goody Bag, warmed up their voices, and looked forward to a thrilling day with these musical icons. And, they were not disappointed!

After warming up and singing for one another, the students burst into thunderous applause as The Freshmen entered the performing area and treated the students to a couple of their classic tunes. The workshop/clinic followed, and it was obvious that the musical perspectives of these students from the choral programs of Ferndale, Blaine, and Mt. Baker high schools, were forever changed, and inspired! A quartet and two octets performed songs from The Four Freshmen repertoire— *Graduation Day*, *Candy*, and *Day By Day*—and the Chamber Chorale from Blaine performed a piece that was arranged by former Four Freshman, Kirk Marcy (FF Group #12), entitled *Come and Find the Quiet Center*.



A table full of Goody Bags are ready to greet the Blaine High School Choir Students when they arrive for the Thursday workshop and Master Class!



Local high school choral teachers Jessica Schlichting, Ferndale High (above), Andy Marshall, Blaine High, and Linda Moore, Mt. Baker High, lead the students in vocal warm-ups prior to the arrival of their "mentors" Bob, Tommy, Jake, and Ryan. Teachers had prepared students on Four Freshmen tunes, and had shared historic videos with them.



Ryan coaches one of the student octets on style, breath support, and "positive" rehearsals. At the end of the Master Class, all students gathered for group shots with the famous Four Freshmen!

Following the workshop, there were musical activities down the street at the Jansen Arts Center, as well as a "Java Jive Jam Session" back at the WECU Pavilion, followed by a dance. The boys were encouraged to go back to the hotel and rest up for the ensuing concerts, but rumor has it that they all drove down to Cornwall Park in Bellingham where they played Disc Golf-- one of their favorite "energizing" activities! (Such "rascals" are they!)

Friday:

As with Thursday, those who wanted could walk to **Eucatastrophe Coffee Shop** on Front Street for some music as they enjoyed their morning Java. Some partook, others took a walk, and still others stayed in bed. We're here to enjoy!

Friday was the day that the local big band, **The Swing Connection**, was going to collaborate with the Freshmen on the evening concert. Doug Broersma, Festival Co-Chair, made sure that after the two-hour sound check and the one-hour rehearsal that the band would be well-fed and ready for their 6:30 downbeat, so he ordered pizza, salad, and soft drinks to tide them over and keep them refreshed before they had to go onstage. (Doug's Lynden hospitality was abundant!)



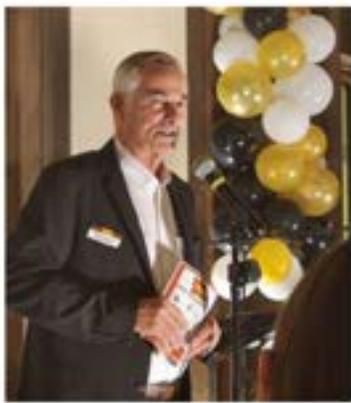
The **Swing Connection** got a quick shot with The Freshmen before retreating to the Green Room for dinner, and YES! There was DANCING in the back during their joyful, Friday performance!

Saturday:

Again, there was Morning Jazz at **Eucatastrophe Coffee**, and there was also a Lynden Music Festival "Ritual" called *Legends in the Lobby* whereby the featured musicians would pop in and play a tune or two for the 100 people who were squeezing themselves into a 50-seat lobby! Hey, it was cozy, but **fun!** Dmitri and his quintet had retreated to Seattle for other gigs, but Folkert-Hans, Terhi, and The Freshmen (sans Ryan) were present and ready to deliver!



The talented Dutchman, Folkert-Hans, and Festival Co-Chair, Terhi Broersma, perform outside of **The Inn at Lynden** to lure the local folks inside to hear the "Legends in the Lobby."



The Saturday evening Dinner/Show at the WECU Pavilion began with Co-Chair Doug Broersma giving a lively introduction of the student groups who had participated in Thursday's Master Class and were chosen to perform prior to The Four Freshmen taking the stage. (The name of the first performing group was "The Four Seniors...Almost.")

It should be noted that the attendance at both the Friday and Saturday shows were comparable to the attendance at several of the past Four Freshmen Convention concerts. There were more than 200 in attendance on Friday, and well over 300 on Saturday with the pre-concert dinners having been sold out! At the end of each show the audience was immediately on their feet, shouting for more, and the boys would always come through!

Four Freshmen Society members came from far and wide to join the locals at these concerts, and there were no less than two dozen who logged onto my "Four Freshmen Society Sign-In Sheet," and probably a few more who slipped through the cracks. Barney Biggs and his wife came down from White Rock and Surrey, British Columbia to attend both concerts, and they were vehement about wanting to have The Four Freshmen return to the area on a yearly basis. Society member Robert Peterson flew up from Reno, Nevada, for both of the evening events, and he very much wants the boys to headline similar festivals in the Reno area! ("Hey! Call Dina!")



Among the special people attending not already mentioned were Rick and Kathy Feese (daughter of original Freshman Ross Barbour), with Phoebe Shalev and Hayden Byrne (grandson of Chaz Cone, the FF Society Webmaster and Publicist), and Jake with his parents, Bob and Sara Baldwin. All came from afar to enjoy the amazing talent of The **Four Freshmen!**

A family affair: I am flanked by my daughter, Alison with husband Ken, who drove up from Puyallup, and my son Andrew, our videographer, with wife Jessica, Ferndale Choir.



Sunday:

The last day of the 5-day festival offered one final performance at 2:00 pm by an original member of **The Imperials**, Sherman Andrus, but the boys couldn't take part because they needed to rise early and hit the road to make their flights.

Still, everyone in the Lynden community was very "jazzed" that the famous Four Freshmen had come to town! There were many smiles up and down Front Street!

In a closing note: There was a concern that, because the performing venues were in several different locations and away from hotel accommodations, there would be transportation issues, especially for out-of-towners. The LMF Committee was prepared with shuttles, which were readily available but were, surprisingly, seldom used! (Leave it to the FF Society folks to be able to figure things out!)



"Need a lift from here to there? Just ask!"

Our
President,
**Donna
Gallaway**



Wonderful Washington Weekend

By Christian Rank FFS historian

The Freshmen headlined the Lynden Music Festival in Lynden, Washington. This nice little town, nestled in the NW corner of the state was the perfect setting for this intimate festival. It was the perfect opportunity to experience all that the Pacific North West has to offer. It was great to see familiar faces like Kathy Feese, Gil Peterson, Kay & Bob Boynton and meet new ones like Jake's, parents Sara and Bob Baldwin.

The boys did two fantastic shows Friday and Saturday nights as well as holding a master class for local music students from nearby Blaine and Ferndale districts. It was inspiring to see The Freshmen teach these students some of the finer details of vocal harmony, something that these already talented youngsters would only benefit from.

The two shows were full of nice surprises like a great new swinging arrangement of the standard *I Could Write a Book*, an impromptu *Night and Day* from Tommy and Jake, Ryan's catchy new original *Floating and Benny's (Pennies) From Heaven*, Jake's homage to vocalese pioneer Eddie Jefferson. Once again the talents of these four are limitless! Everytime I see them, I'm in for a new musical adventure!

Dimitri Matheny's tribute to Henry Mancini and Netherlands based trumpeter, sax, and vocalist Folkert-Hans Tolsma were just a few of the other musical acts we enjoyed over the week along with The Swing Connection, the big band that backed the Frosh on Friday.

Many thanks to Mark Schlichting for his excellent job coordinating this event. Bravo Mark! Job well done!

What It Costs to Print *Fresh News*

Barb Meyers Editor

The average cost would be about \$2,500, however it's hard to tell you what will always be the cost. So many variables go into each issue. The ArtDpartmen's cost always stays the same. Mark Advertising is the variable. How many pages, how much color, how many printed and how many mailed. It very seldom goes down unless we lose members. In that case it's how many are printed and how many are mailed.

We can control cost if we start doing black and white and control the pages. Sometimes the news and photos are so good we feel color is necessary to show all this better. One problem- if you just put one word or sentence in color, you pay for a page of color. After this one I will start doing a little experimenting to see how I can save.

Also, we won't always be on time because I'm not getting that many articles anymore and there are no more conventions. So please bear with me.

Fresh News is published quarterly © 2024, all rights reserved, celebrating THE FOUR FRESHMEN, the best vocal/instrumental quartet in the world. Publication does not imply approval of FFS corporate directors or trustees. Each author is responsible for his/her article.

Deadlines for consideration of articles:

1. Jan/Feb/March - Dec 01
2. Apr/May/June - March 15
3. July/Aug/Sept - June 15
4. Oct/Nov/Dec - Sept 15

Submit manuscripts to the Editor:

Barb Meyers, bam241136@gmail.com, Cell 419-309-7855

GREETINGS FFS MEMBERS & FRESHMEN FANS

The days are getting shorter as we get closer to the busy holiday season. I love the colors of Fall in Ohio as the leaves change and the air is clean and crisp. The music of choice here on Saturday afternoon comes from The Ohio State University Marching Band halftime shows and pep rallies as I watch my Buckeyes play football.

We all love the unique sound of our Freshmen, but most of us appreciate and listen to some variety of musicians along with the music of The Four Freshmen. We are blessed to have access to several ways to hear a large number of artists today. Have you been following The Freshmen on Facebook? They have posted some really great music videos lately! Wonderful exposure for them along with the recent Lynden Music Festival.

The Four Freshmen Society is thankful and appreciate the members and friends who have sent contributions to help keep the *Fresh News* going and to enable us to support the Freshmen in small ways. We have received more than \$2,000 in donations since our last issue of *Fresh News*. Our editor, Barb Meyers, has written a brief description of the cost to publish and deliver our quarterly newsletter so you can be informed about our obligations there. Our dues don't cover those bills, so keep the donations coming! Send them to Chaz Cone (address on Board of Directors page) or go to the FFS web page.

Thank you for your support of the FFS!

Four Freshmen at The Crooners Super Club

by Don Follett, Roseville, MN

Making a habit of playing at the Crooners Super Club in the Twin Cities, The Four Freshmen ended their Sept. 22 gig to a standing ovation, and promised to return for a holiday show November 30th.

Downbeat magazine has named Crooners as “one of the world’s top jazz venues.” The magazine story said: “A top jazz venue, globally, where great improvised music is being played—from exciting new venues to legendary clubs large and small.” The Freshmen have already played the young club four times.

Your favorite group again played in the Club’s Belvedere Room, in fact a huge tent spread over a large floor, just for summer seasonal seating. The Club has several other rooms for different shows. For Twin Cities’ resident Freshmen Ryan Howe and Tommy Boynton, Crooners is just down the road.

September’s 90-minute set had something new and something old to thrill the approximately 200 Freshmen fans, who again applauded mostly for the songs that established the quartet: *The Day Isn’t Long Enough*, *Day by Day*, and *Poinciana*. This night the group opened with *From This Moment On*, featuring Jake Baldwin’s trumpet work, and then to a mood-changing *All the Things You Are*.

The group took *Route 66* to end the show, and an extended standing ovation; encore— *What a Wonderful World*, not unlike the song list at their 75th Anniversary concerts.

As he has done before, Bob Ferreria, now with 32 years with the group, dedicated *It’s A Blue World* to the original Four Freshmen and to the foursome’s 76 years of their providing beautiful music. It’s amazing how the group’s key songs have been sustained and are loved by their audiences. Of course, other singers have sung these songs—but not nearly as well.



FN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2024

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New Members

Marshall & Gail Arlin	White Rock, BC	Andrew Hallum	Lynden, WA
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The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

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

For bookings: International Ventures Incorporated

Dina Sheets-Roth

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Phone: 661-259-4500

Email: ivimanagement@me.com

Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

November 30, 2024

Minneapolis, MN

Crooners Super Club, 6161 Highway 65 NE

Show time: 5:30pm

Tickets: 763-760-0062

January 13, 2025

Morton, IL

Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center, 350 North Illinois Ave.

Show time: 7:00pm

Tickets: TBA

February 23, 2025

Sarasota, FL

Glenridge on Palmer Ranch Performing Arts Center, 733 Scotland Way

Show time: 2:00pm

Info: 941-552-5325

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