



Fresh News

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OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2025

Save the Dates!
THE FOUR FRESHMEN

Coming soon!
CELEBRATING THE FOUR FRESHMEN
March 6-7, 2026
Nashville, Tennessee

A photograph of the four members of the band The Four Freshmen. They are standing in a row against a night cityscape background, likely Nashville. From left to right: a young man in a dark suit holding a black electric guitar; a man in a maroon suit holding a trumpet; a man in a dark blue suit holding a saxophone; and a man in a light grey suit holding a sunburst electric guitar. The text 'Save the Dates!' is written in a cursive font at the top, and 'THE FOUR FRESHMEN' is in a bold, sans-serif font below it. At the bottom, it says 'Coming soon!' in cursive, followed by 'CELEBRATING THE FOUR FRESHMEN', 'March 6-7, 2026', and 'Nashville, Tennessee' in bold, sans-serif font.

Group #28 Report

By Gil Peterson

Our
President,
**Donna
Gallaway**



Group #28 has had several performances recently and all the reports I have received have been outstanding. I was supposed to attend the recent concert in Mableton, GA, but due to circumstances beyond my control, I had to cancel my plans. However, I received information from Chaz Cone that the Freshmen were excellent and were very well received. I, of course, was very disappointed and I look forward to seeing and hearing them soon when they are anywhere near my location.

I have recently been in contact with Linda Harrison and Mark Schlichting who are planning a fabulous event with the Freshmen scheduled in March in Nashville, Tennessee. This will not be a convention, but will be a "reunion" of the Freshmen and Freshmen fans. I don't have all the details yet, but what I do have sounds superb. Nashville is a very interesting city known throughout the world for every kind of music anyone can imagine. It is a city easy to reach by the airlines from anywhere in the world. As I understand now, the venue for the event is conveniently located directly across the street from the airport. No ground transportation will be necessary. All the information regarding this sensational event will be forthcoming when it becomes available. This will be a very special "reunion" that you will not want to miss.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! If all goes well, I will see you there.

GREETINGS FFS MEMBERS & FRESHMEN FANS

As I write this brief column, I am on a bus in the mountains of Wyoming heading to Yellowstone National Park. I hope you will all plan to travel to Nashville in a few months to join in a celebration of the Four Freshmen and welcome the newest member to the group, Chris. I have listened to all the available songs they have posted on YouTube and Facebook and can't wait to hear them in person. He sounds like a perfect addition to the group, and he is young and cute! (I actually remember saying that about Bob in Columbus, Ohio more than 30 years ago!)

Linda Harrison and Mark Schlichting have been working together to create a wonderful opportunity for all of us to gather once again to enjoy a couple of days of live Freshmen music and visiting with each other and the Four Guys we love so much. More information can be found in this copy of *Fresh News*. Hope to see you all in Nashville!

Group #28 at the Grand Opera House

By Christian Rank, FFS historian

Group 28's journey began on July 18th in Minneapolis. Three performances later I got the opportunity to hear their 4th show at the historic Grand Opera House in Cheboygan, a picturesque town located near the northern tip of Michigan's lower peninsula. I was not disappointed!

The boys came out swinging with *From This Moment On*. A time-honored favorite *In This Whole Wide World*, followed and the full house was feeling the love. A jubilant *Give Me the Simple Life*, a joyful *When You're Smiling* provided a setup of four tunes from the group's time-honored masterpiece album *5 Trombones: Angel Eyes, You Stepped Out Of A Dream, Love Is Just Around the Corner* and the tender *Guilty*. Tommy and Jake then joined forces on *I've Got A Crush On You*, from Tommy's new album. A swinging *Route 66* brought us to the Intermission.

The second half started off with the boys going back to the beginning when they came front and center around one microphone and treated us to some of the Freshmen's earliest arrangements: *Easy Street, Then I'll Be Happy* (Group 28's first single, check it out if you haven't already), *The Day Isn't Long Enough, Poinciana*, and Bobby Troup's *Ain't Seen Nothing Like You*. Jake then segued into a swinging *Someone Like You* which led to *Day By Day. It's A Blue World*, dedicated to Group One, led to the closer *Day In Day Out*, swinger which makes a perfect opener or closer. A moving encore of *What A Wonderful World* had the crowd on its feet. This is becoming a Freshmen classic in the *Chasing Rainbows* vein. (continued on page 5)



CELEBRATING The Four Freshmen

By Co-chairmen Linda Harrison and Mark Schlichting

It has been a long time (at least it seems like it) since we were all together as fans in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Mark Schlichting and I shared with each other that we miss this kind of major gathering, so we decided to develop a special event for 2026. You may remember Mark as the jazz violinist in Jam Sessions who brought The Four Freshmen to headline in the long-standing Lynden Music Festival in Washington last year. He has been active in the Society since 2016, and Linda has been around since the Atlanta Convention in 2009.

The event that has resulted from our brainstorming is "*Celebrating The Four Freshmen.*" It is NOT a convention — just a two-day experience of enjoying the guys and their music. It is even more than just a reunion. We want to open it up to people outside our core group of FFS members and get new young music enthusiasts to appreciate their sound.

What better place to remind the music world of the unique and exciting harmony of The Four Freshmen than in the Music City itself, Nashville, Tennessee?

So, we will meet at the Hilton BNA Nashville Terminal Airport Hotel. This should be an adventure all its own. For one thing, this hotel sits on the airport property, so travelers just fly into Nashville (BNA), walk to the hotel, enjoy the time there and walk back to their terminal to fly home. I would expect the airlines to provide a wheelchair if requested. If the attendees are energetic and want to go downtown, of course there is transportation for that.

The Hilton BNA is a 4-Diamond AAA hotel property. Because they are happy to have us during the cool weekend of March 6-7, 2026, they were able to offer us special reduced group room rates.

The projected temperatures are 58-60 degrees — not bad for early March! Just bring a jacket because the cocktail hour each night is set to be on the rooftop BNA Sky Pavilion where you can see the Nashville skyline and watch planes take off and land.

When there is no specific activity going on, we will have a Gathering Room where attendees can hang out and renew friendships.

Suggested Schedule of Events

Friday, March 6, 2026

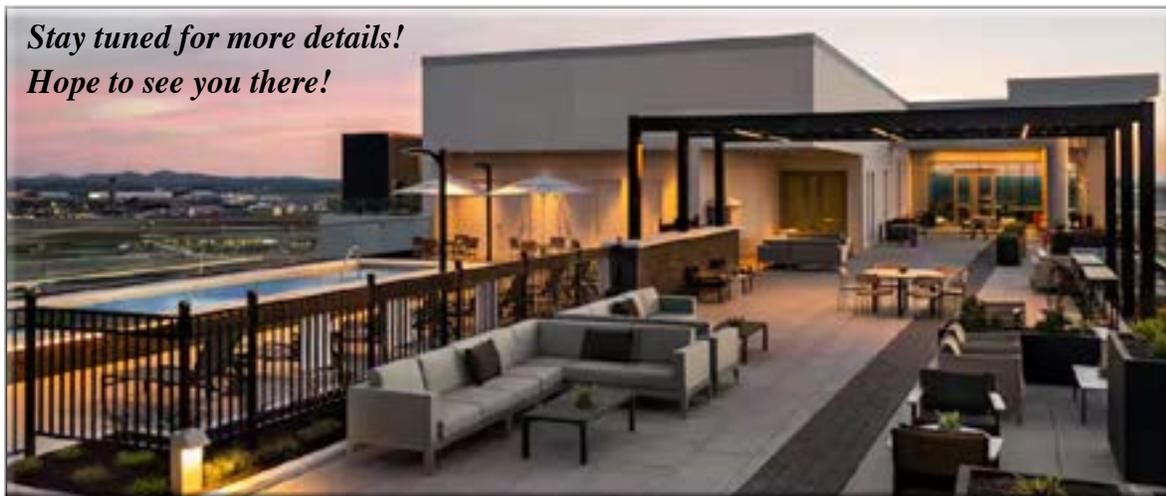
- 12:00 noon: The Celebration opens with an exceptional Buffet Lunch. Welcome and possible short program - introduce Chris Peters, our newest Freshman
- 2:00 – 4:00 Fresh Talk
- Dinner on your own
- 6:30 – 7:30 : Cash bar
- 7:30 – 9:00: Four Freshmen performance

Saturday, March 7, 2026

- Morning: Breakfast on your own
- Hang out in the Gathering Room
- 12:00 Noon: Another exceptional Buffet Lunch
- 2:00 – 4:00: Jam Session and Singalong
- Dinner on your own
- 6:30 – 7:30: Cash bar
- 7:30 – 9:00: Four Freshmen performance

We would appreciate enthusiastic support from the members of the Board of the Four Freshmen Society and would encourage their offspring and friends to attend. We are not expecting any financial support from the Society and are anticipating that this Celebration will pay for itself. We intend to promote Four Freshmen Society memberships to all non-members who attend. Even though this Celebration is not a fund-raiser, any profits will go to the Society.

*Stay tuned for more details!
Hope to see you there!*



Four Freshmen Society PAST PRESIDENTS

Edd Townsend, John Bangs, Ted Driscoll, Don Follett, Tom Purvis, Dick Baldwin,
Mel Myers, Neil Lantz and Donna Gallaway.

The Many Lives of Donna Gallaway, FFS President

There is that familiar saying, “If you want something done and done right, give it to a busy person.” One could say this about Donna Gallaway, the current President of the Four Freshmen Society. Donna was exposed to the Freshmen sound in her youth because her parents were fans. Later she married Tom, a musician who played the euphonium and had a very extensive LP collection, including many by the Freshmen.

In 1990, Tom and Donna attended a Four Freshmen concert. They picked up an application form to join the Four Freshmen Appreciation Society. Finally, they filled out the application, which asked questions about the extent of their musical interest, and sent it to John Bangs in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

John Bangs called to invite them to a 2-day private event for which the Freshmen were engaged. Tom and Donna decided to go and were happy to meet a lot of other fans, including the Freshmen: Bob Flanigan, Autie Goodman, Greg Stegeman, and Mike Beisner.

The next year, 1992, they went to Columbus, Ohio in conjunction with a Senior Expo to hear the Freshmen. Donna continues, “The plan was to order pizza and have everyone pitch in \$10-15, so they asked me if I would collect the money.” This was the year that young Bob Ferreira, who was only 19 years old at the time, joined the group.

Later, Donna and Tom went back to Oshkosh (second time in three years). John Bangs asked if Donna would take minutes of the meeting, so for more than 25 years, she served as Secretary. She comments, “My husband was rather shy and didn’t like big crowds, but he would go to these conventions because he knew there were people there who would speak his language.”

Donna’s husband was a dentist. They lived in Washington DC for four years while he was in the army and then moved into a partnership dental practice in Ohio. Tom wanted to be on his own, so they found a location in Leipsic, Ohio, and he asked Donna to come in and help him set it up. Donna thought, “OK, I can do a year or two to get things rolling.” It ended up being 28 years.

Tom passed away in 2007 from a rare bacterial infection, but Donna stayed on as secretary of the Four Freshmen Society. She continues to go to all the conventions by herself and says, “I knew enough

people by that time that I was comfortable to go on my own.”

In 2020, Donna became President of the Four Freshmen Society. It was a challenging year to try to have a convention because of Covid. Contracts needed to be canceled and rescheduled. Finally, the convention was held in Bay City, Michigan – a smaller attendance but a successful meeting.

She continues her interest in getting this music to younger people who will love it once they are exposed to it. And she is very proud of the current members of The Four Freshmen. They all have degrees in music, some from

very prestigious institutions, so they are well prepared to succeed in music.

In other aspects of her life, Donna serves her local Methodist Church in many capacities. She has been trained as a Certified Lay Speaker and is qualified to fill in for her Pastor as well as to preach in other churches in the area. She also leads a weekly women’s Bible study and is Chairperson of the Staff /Pastors Relations Team. With a degree in Education, she substitutes in the Pre-school. She says, “It’s tiring to keep up with them, but you can’t help but smile when you are around those 3-, 4- and 5-year-old kids.”

Donna is also a year-round volunteer with Samaritan’s Purse, which is Billy Graham’s organization for international relief following natural disasters. Part of their activity is Operation Christmas Child, a group responsible for the Shoebox Ministry. People assemble shoe boxes with toys, school supplies, hygiene items and prepare them to be distributed in needy areas around the world.

Although Donna travels back and forth to Florida, where she has a home and family, her base is still in Leipsic, Ohio. Leipsic was originally settled by Germans and is a sister city to Leipzig, Germany. At one point, Libby’s built a ketchup processing plant in the little town, and the farmers in the area started growing tomatoes. This brought in migrant workers and some challenges in integrating them into a rural community. But the community has come together and is now very ethnically diverse. With intermarriage, 70% of the school kids now have Hispanic last names.

Donna thinks the town has bonded with Hispanic culture over food. She oversees a free community meal project serving people from every church, and two of the churches are Hispanic. Everyone loves it when the Hispanic churches prepare authentic food to share.

One more thing... Donna went through training to qualify as a Master Gardener. This requires giving a plant-related service to the community annually. Every year she goes to the greenhouses and picks out 25 flats of flowers-- 15 pots in each flat-- and brings in a couple of other Master Gardeners to create attractive pots to place around the campus of a local nursing home, “The Meadows.”

About her many service activities, Donna states, “When I was working, I couldn’t do these things. But once I retired, it just seemed to be the right thing to do.”



Group #28 was GREAT in Mableton, GA

By Preston Stevens

Group #28 was great performing at the Mable House Barnes Amphitheatre in Mableton GA

This was their first Atlanta-area performance since the Atlanta FFS Convention in 2009. Before that, there was a big turnout at the renowned Atlanta bistro, Johnny's Hideaway in 1995. These poor deprived Atlanta folks showed how they missed our guys by a great turnout.

This was Chris Peters' third Freshmen appearance but you would never know it by his flawless harmony. Chaz Cone explained to me that Chris had been singing the lead on all the group's standards since he was a kid. What are the chances of him landing with the group that he has always idolized?

The gang led off with *From This moment On* and that was a portent of the night's songs which were indeed just outstanding! One of the guys who came with me joined the FF Society although he was young enough to not remember many of the songs.

After *Fools Rush In*, Bob Ferreira introduced the guys and reminisced about the olden days which he was well-qualified to do given his 33 year FF history. Not to be overlooked is Tommy Boynton who joined just before the Louisville convention 'way back in 2016.

Just after *Poinciana* - it brought us to our feet - the guys came together on the

stage apron with a couple of mikes, like the original 1948 group. Wow! Did it bring back memories of my first Freshmen show in 1957 with Flanigan, the two Barbour's, and Kenny Albers. Some things must change but the Four Freshmen seem to have set a standard that resists time.

Jake Baldwin came to the mike with several trumpet solos and we had to think that he might be the best brass man yet. Veteran Tommy had a few words about his time with the group and then back to the business of rendering more than fourteen songs which fans remembered so well : *You Stepped Out Of A Dream* (we did); *Then I'll Be Happy* (we were); *The Day Isn't Long Enough* and these shows are never long enough!

The guys were not allowed to pack up because a standing throng brought them back for an encore, *What A Wonderful World*.



Group #28 at the Grand Opera House (continued from page 2)



Chris Peters has a pure, clean voice and is a perfect fit to sing the first part. This lineup looks like it's shaping up to creating another unique chapter in Freshmen history. The historically beautiful Opera House with its great acoustics was a perfect setting to enjoy Group 28's sounds.

The crowd was ready to take the Freshmen sound home with them, as I sold nearly \$300 in CD's! Not bad! Looking forward to hearing more input from fans on 28's sound. Cheers to Group 28!



The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Item	Cost	QTY	Total
5 Trombones/5 Trumpets	\$5.00		
50 Years Fresh	\$5.00		
Capitol Collector Series	\$5.00		
Culmination - Greg Stegeman (*)	\$15.00		
Faux Freshmen - Scratchin' the Surface	\$5.00		
Faux Freshmen - Seasons of the Heart	\$5.00		
Faux Freshmen - Unsung	\$5.00		
Faux Freshmen - One More Time Around	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen (Jazz Factory)	\$5.00		
Four Freshmen and Friends	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen with Emmet Cohen	\$18.00		
Four Freshmen with Emmet Cohen Vol. 2	\$15.00		
Freshmas	\$5.00		
Freshmen Year/Voices in Latin Vol I	\$5.00		
Golden Anniversary Vol II	\$5.00		
In Session	\$15.00		
Ken Albers Arrangements	\$28.00		
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Live at Clearwater	\$5.00		
Live at Mr. T-Bones (group 5) (*)	\$5.00		
Live at Penn State (*)	\$5.00		
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Live from Vegas DVD	\$15.00		
Live from Vegas (DVD & CD)	\$25.00		
Live in Holland	\$15.00		
Live in the New Millenium	\$5.00		
Live Trombones	\$15.00		
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Love Songs	\$15.00		
More 5 Trombones/In Person Vol. 2	\$5.00		
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Return to Romance/Live in Manchester (*)	\$5.00		
Road Shows	\$5.00		
Road to Portsmouth (*)	\$5.00		
Snowfall	\$5.00		
Star Spangled Banner - Single CD	\$1.00		
Star Spangled Banner - Five Pack	\$4.00		
Still Fresh	\$15.00		
The Liberty Years	\$5.00		
Through the Years (*)	\$5.00		
Voices in Brass/In Person Vol. 1	\$5.00		
Voices in Standards	\$5.00		
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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All \$5 CDs are 4 for \$20 plus \$1 each for postage.
(International Orders, Shipping is actual cost.)

UPDATED PLAYBILLS



The Four Freshmen playbills that provide a brief overview of the group as well as short individual bios have been updated to include the latest Freshmen, Chris Peters. Limited copies are available for distribution at local Freshmen concerts. Contact Linda Harrison: lharrison@exoticdvm.com.

Subtotal

Shipping - \$1 per CD for US orders

\$4 per LP for US orders

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

Total

Ordered at the convention

(*) Available to Members Only

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

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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

P.O. Box 2749, Wenatchee, WA 98807

Phone: 661-259-4500

Email: ivmanagement@me.com

Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

November 6

Grinnell College, 1115 8th Avenue
Showtime: TBA

Grinnell, IA

Ticket info: TBA

December 3

Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, 300 Main St
Showtime: 8:00p

Old Saybrook, CT

Tickets: 860-510-0453

December 7

Horseshoe Bay Cultural Enrichment, Granite Ballroom
at Horseshoe Bay Resort, 200 Hi Circle N
Doors open: 4:30p
Show time: 6:00p

Horseshoe Bay, TX

Dinner: 5:30p

Tickets: [Click HERE](#)

December 9

Parker Jazz Club, 117 W 4th St, 107 B
Show time: TBA

Austin, TX

Tickets: TBA

December 10

Jazz TX, 312 Pearl Pkway, Bldg 6, Suite 6001
Show times: 7:00p and 9:30p

San Antonio, TX

Tickets: TBA

2026

February 15

Central Park Performing Arts Center, 105 Central Park Dr
Show time: 2:00p

Largo, FL

Tickets: 727-587-6793

..and on our website https://www.largoarts.com/box_office_information.php.

March 6 & 7

Hilton BNA Nashville Terminal Hotel

Nashville, TN

See detail in the article on page 3 of this *Fresh News*.

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