

Calderon, FF Return to San Antonio

by Mike Collins (TX)

San Antonio native, Curtis Calderon, made his first homecoming appearance with the Four Freshmen at a fund-raising concert Nov. 8 as part of a three-stop south Texas swing.

More than a dozen members of the Calderon family were among the newly initiated to the FF. None left disappointed, to say the least.



Proud Uncle Curt and Family

Charlie Calderon (dad), Curtis and Grandmother Louisa (mom)
Kathy Lichtenberger (sis), Christian Hortense Thomas

For this 45-year fan, each appearance is a new event, even when the actual songs are familiar. And things have changed quite a bit since Calderon joined the group 14 months earlier. The keyboard is gone. The group features the quality of singing more than in recent years, although Calderon's dexterity on trumpet and flugelhorn is highlighted on most selections.

So readers who keep on seeing many of the same songs cropping up in performance reviews need to realize that if they attend an upcoming FF show, it's almost a certainty that the performance will be very different if you haven't heard the group in the last few months.

The Four Freshmen - My Old and New Friends God Bless Them ALL

by Nick Cercone, Sr., Waltham MA

The year was 1954 - I had just graduated from Radio Announcers School in Boston and my dream was to become a Jazz Disc Jockey. I had visions of filling the air with the sounds of Gerry Mulligan, Chet Baker, Kenton, Gillespie, Yard Bird, but most of all my intent was to feature a group of guys that totally put me under whenever I listened to them - our Beloved Four Freshmen. My dreams came true mainly in Rhode Island, where I became a bona fide Jazz Disc Jockey. At one point in time, arguably, I was playing more Freshmen sounds than any jockey in the country.

As the natural unfolding of my life carried me into marriage and children, the economics of being a "Jazz Jock" simply dictated that I seek other means of supporting my happily expanding family, and I left the scene. As the years turned into decades I drifted farther and farther away from all types of Jazz, including the Freshmen (I still can't explain to myself why this happened). The Freshmen however, above all, never left my mind or my heart.

About a year ago, while channel hopping, I happened onto the PBS in Rhode Island and was stunned beyond description - pouring out at me were the "old" Freshmen and the "new" Freshmen. I had absolutely no idea that the Freshmen, albeit new voices, still existed. It was a re-birth of sorts to me. It was an awakening to realize that there was even a Four Freshmen Society.

I am now a man of many years and the sand in my hour-glass is sending me a message - and yet rediscovering the Freshmen quite by accident has filled me with a happiness that I had let get away from me for lo those many years. Yes, finding the Freshmen again has given me an inner peace that only their sound could give me. Fifty years ago they were a National/International Treasure, and now, in the new millennium, nothing has changed except to say that I have found Four "OLD" Friends and Four "NEW" Friends. Bless them all!!



Lorraine Mike Ann

TEN YEAR PINS AWARDED

Thomas & Judy Coby	MI	Nov. 1992
Dan & Ellen de la Torre	CA	Sept. 1992
Larry Field	IN	Aug. 1992
Pat Garascia	MI	Dec. 1992
Rein de Graaff	(Netherlands)	Nov. 1992
Nan & Paul Klein	FL	Dec. 1992
Harold & Shirley Muir	OH	Nov. 1992
Ron Sveden	MA	Dec. 1992
Don Walter	PA	Dec. 1992