

Donny Osmond Announces New Vocal Group Hall Inductees

Class of 2002 Inductees

Listed in alphabetical order

ABBA
The Chantels
The Clovers
The 5th Dimension
The Five Keys
The Four Knights
The Harptones
Jay & The Americans
The Marcells
The Shirelles
The Skyliners
Swan Silvertones

"Bom-ba-ba-bom-fa-dang-a-dang-fa-ding-a-dong-ding" from the #1 hit "Blue Moon" could have been the vocal response The Marcells' bassman Fred Johnson had about his Pittsburgh, Pa.-based group's induction into The Vocal Group Hall Of Fame.

The 60-year-old Johnson, who was on hand during the press conference announcing the inductees, said he was "overwhelmed" and "spellbound" about his group's induction. "It hasn't really hit me yet."

Johnson said he was influenced by many of the groups inducted, citing The Chantels' 1958 #15 hit "Maybe" as "the ultimate" song. Of course, his own bass lines in "Blue Moon" are the most immortal "words" ever sung.

The list of the 12 Class of 2002 inductees, which includes The Marcells, was announced by acclaimed entertainer Donny Osmond at a press conference held April 24, 2002, at the Hall's Sharon, Pa., museum. Osmond was in the area for a Youngstown, Ohio, concert and was asked by new Hall director Bob Crosby to make the announcements.

The 2002 inductees are heavy into doo-wop and pop and range from 1940s vocal groups Swan Silvertones and The Four Knights to '50s doo-woppers The Chantels, The Clovers, The Five Keys, The Harptones, and the bass-laden Marcells to the pop vocals of the '60s and '70s groups The Fifth Dimension, Jay And The Americans, The Shirelles, The Skyliners, and ABBA.

The nominees were voted upon by *Goldmine* readers in a ballot inserted into the magazine earlier this year and also by the Hall's induction committee, which is made up of music industry professionals and historians. *Goldmine* readers have been involved in the voting process since 1998, the first year of inductions.

As a solo artist, Osmond had 20 Top 100 hits in the '70s, including 1971's #1 "Go Away Little Girl," and seven Top 50 hits with his sister Marie, including the #4 "I'm Leaving It (All) Up To You" in 1974.

He was impressed with the museum, stating that it reminded him of how vocal groups used to rise to fame - by *singing*. Today's music industry can take people with limited talent and make superstars out of them through recording trickery and image alone, he told the Sharon PA., *Herald*.

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"It's nice to have a museum like this, because the younger generation can learn how (vocal harmonizing) started," he said.

The Hall is planning on a late-summer induction ceremony, according to Crosby, but the final details have not been made, as the artists need to be contacted and schedules need to be arranged. Crosby is also hoping to hold a short tour of the new and previous inductees as both a promotion and fund-raiser for the Hall, which is a nonprofit organization. More details on induction events will be forthcoming in *Goldmine*.

The Hall is the brainchild of Sharon native, Tony Butala, founding member of The Lettermen. Butala's group, which have been performing for more than 40 years and have released more than 100 albums, were inducted into the Hall last year. The inductions have been held annually since 1998.

The Vocal Group Hall of Fame And Museum, which houses memorabilia from more than 90 vocal groups, is the first segment in a series of music-related halls of fame planned for the city. Last fall the Barbershop Hall Of Fame opened up in a building across the street from the Vocal Group Hall. Sharon is located approximately 90 miles south of Cleveland 60 miles north of Pittsburgh. For more information on the Hall, go to **www.vocalgrouphalloffame.com**

- Greg Loescher GOLDMINE #570 MAY 31, 2002

THE FRESHMEN ARE COMING TO ROSEBURG, OREGON by Gil Peterson

I am delighted to announce that the fabulous Four Freshmen will be performing in Roseburg, OR, on July 16, 2002, at 7:00 PM. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all the FFS members to join us here for a sensational evening of music.

Here in Roseburg, each summer, we have a series of musical evenings called "Music On The Half Shell." The concerts are free to the public. Top name artists appear each Tuesday from June to August. The events are sponsored by local businesses and individuals. The Half-Shell is located on the bank of the South Umpqua River in Stewart Park. The setting is spectacular and the acoustics are superb. The weather here that time of year is normally perfect. Temperatures range from 50 degrees at night to 85 degrees during the day, with virtually no humidity.

Roseburg is located on I-5 approximately 70 miles south of Eugene. If you are flying in, I would suggest flying to Eugene and renting a car there. We have an abundance of very nice inexpensive motels available. Restaurants are also plentiful.

If you can join us, we would love having you. You may as well plan to stay a few days and enjoy this magnificent area. We are 70 miles from the beautiful Oregon coast and approximately 90 miles from spectacular Crater Lake. The drive along the North Umpqua River en route to Crater Lake is nothing less than breathtaking. If none of that turns you on, we have golfing, fishing, as well as tours and wine tasting at a number of outstanding local wineries. Plus.....I make great martinis at my old river house around 5:00 every day.

With the Freshmen and all of this, how can you possibly go wrong. If I can be of any assistance to any of you, please contact me. My unlisted phone number is (541) 672-0937. See you on the 16th!!!!