



Fresh News

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JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2021



Our
President,
**Donna
Gallaway**



GREETINGS Fresh Fans

What a crazy year 2020 has been! I hope all of you have enjoyed some quality time with some family and friends over the holidays as you kept safe following the protocol. I feel grateful to be able to turn the calendar to 2021, looking forward to a very different year ahead- a new year with a fresh start filled with promise!

You have probably noticed in this edition of *Fresh News*, that the Freshmen are also ready to start 2021 with a Fresh new configuration as Ryan Howe has signed on to sing the first tenor part. Welcome Ryan! Bob says this group is ready to "put the pedal to the metal" and do their thing as soon as this pandemic is under control enough for them to start performing live again.

I feel sure that the past year has been more difficult than we will ever know for these talented musicians who have not been able to perform live shows through no fault of their own. Therefore, when they are finally able to perform in your area, let's plan to fill the venues with everyone we know to show how much we have missed them and their unique Freshmen sound! Another way to fill the void for all of us Fresh Fans is by planning to attend the next convention/reunion. There you can get your fill of the music we so love and interact with the four guys in an atmosphere drenched in all things Fresh.

On a sad note, we mourn the passing of former Freshmen Ray Brown who was part of Group #5 and performed 1973-1977. Ray died on Nov. 11, 2020 at the age of 81. Ray played keyboard and was always drawn to a piano whenever available. Some of my best memories of him are all about the fun and entertaining way he would gather a large group around a piano at the conventions. One instance of that took place at a convention years ago where I found myself sitting on the floor along with lots of FFS folks and the then Freshmen while Ray entertained us with his version of *Findercella*. He was able to sing and tell a story by switching starts of words around that was really hilarious. I always wondered how he did that! Ray could belt out the standards as well as the goofy tunes. He will be missed, and we offer our prayers and sympathy to his family, but we'll be together again!

WELCOME TO 27!

by Bob Ferreira

Hello fans and friends. This has been one crazy year, but with every challenge comes an opportunity for positive forward momentum. After seven years of contributing his immense musical talents to the group, Stein Malvey has decided to hang up his road shoes to pursue new and exciting musical ventures. We all wish Stein much health and success in all his future musical endeavors. One thing we strive for as a group when a personnel change is imminent is that the person coming in brings something unique and positive in the way of personality and musicality. Ryan Howe exemplifies both of these attributes in spades. Ryan joined us in November and we performed our first shows in Largo, Florida on November 15th singing the lead part and playing bass... Yes, you heard me correctly; THE LEAD PART AND BASS! Tommy Boynton has wanted to sing an inner harmony part for quite some time and has taken over the guitar duties. Ladies and gentlemen, I will just tell you that in my 28 years with the group I have never been more excited to hit the stage with three guys as I am with this current line up. With only one day of full group rehearsals we had two amazing performances! Ryan brings lush and powerful colors to the melodies, Tommy has such power, control, and fullness on the second part that just makes chords light up. Jake's smooth tone on the baritone part provides a beautiful inner anchor to the harmonies. These guys are phenomenal!

I cannot tell you all how proud I am of these three guys. These gentlemen go so far and above what is required of them and beyond what most 'working musicians' would do. They don't do it for a mere paycheck. These guys do it because they love their craft, they love making great music, and they love The Four Freshmen and all that its music, history, and legacy entails. These guys are the pure essence of dedication and I am truly humbled and proud to be working with these wonderful human beings. We will be doing all we can to get out there and perform for you all when it safe and appropriate to do so and look forward to some exciting projects on the horizon. Until then, please stay safe and healthy and we will see you all very soon!

A Brief Commentary on Future Freshmen

by Dave Bentley

Gil Peterson called me a day or so ago and suggested I write a brief piece for *Fresh News*. Gil thought some commentary by me on a fund-raising project I started in April would be appropriate and informative to the many readers of our favorite newsletter. So here goes:

This idea sprang up at the very beginning of the pandemic. I realized quickly that the boys (our favorite vocal group) were in for a very rough patch. While I did not at the time know the extent nor the severity of COVID-19, I was prescient by luck to start when I did. The idea was simple: I posited that The Four Freshmen have, for many, many decades, given us boundless enjoyment with their unique and iconic music. Why not put a treasure chest together which could be used for their next recording, and give the contents of the chest to them? No strings attached. A pure gift.

There were those who suggested to me that it would never work in this environment. I thought differently, and have been proved correct. As of this writing, we have raised a bit more than \$32,000, and it seems we will reach our goal of \$40,000. When the new recording will be done is unknown due to this pandemic, but it will be done, and this group of givers known as *Future Freshmen* will each get a recording signed by The Four Freshmen and will have the knowledge that we have created a worthy source of funding for these four great guys.

If you're interested in joining us, please contact me at dbentley@optonline.net or my home phone: 203-972-1916.

WELCOME RYAN HOWE!

by Bob Ferreira

We are so excited to introduce our newest member to the fold, the amazing Ryan Howe! I will defer to Ryan to tell you a little about himself, so please read Ryan's article. What I will say is that you all are in for a treat once you have the opportunity to hear this fine gentleman perform. He is outstanding. Welcome to the Frosh, Ryan!

GREETINGS TO YOU ALL!

by Ryan Howe

My name is Ryan Howe, and I'm thrilled and deeply honored to be the newest member of this group we all love called The Four Freshmen. Singing the lead part is an incredibly humbling responsibility that I don't take lightly. That being said, I can already tell it is going to be the most fun I have ever had. What joy to ride on top of that wonderful tight harmony.

I've loved this music for a long time. Not as long as most of you, but I can't stress enough how fun and almost surreal this has felt for a fan like myself. My grandfather, Norman, was a longtime fan who passed his love of this music, and music in general, on to me, providing immense support throughout my musical journey. He couldn't have held The Four Freshmen legacy and sound in higher regard. As the internet-savvy grandson it was my job to track down most of The Four Freshmen albums he wanted. Along the way, the sound got under my skin enough that I ended up doing barbershop in high school, vocal jazz in college, and became a teacher of it myself. Would I have gone down the vocal jazz harmony rabbit hole if

the sound that Bob, Don, Ross, and Hal started hadn't made such a big impression on my grandfather? I think so, but I'm certain I wouldn't be writing you this letter today, for sure.

After my undergrad I went to study at Phil Mattson's vocal jazz program, The School For Music Vocations, where I've taught for eight of the last 11 years. In my second week there in 2008, I remember hearing a recording of the group I sang with, Audio Radiance, and thinking the soloist sounded really familiar. My director told me it was Brian Eichenberger, who at the time, sang lead in The Four Freshmen. I remember thinking how cool it was to be in a group that he was also in.

It was also in Iowa that I was actually a contemporary of Tommy Boynton, who you all know and love. Tommy and I sang a lot together over the years, and I was beyond thrilled when he got the gig. There's actually a good chance I've met a couple handfuls of you already at either the San Antonio FFS Convention or the one in Louisville— got to take my grandfather to that one. Tommy and the guys were nice enough to offer to let me "sit in" and sing lead on *Poinciana*. That was a life-changing experience, even if I never expected I'd actually be in the group one day.

I could go on and on about how excited I am to make this incredible music. To this day, I still feel like a kid in a candy shop with the access I have to all these legendary scores! My favorite part of the FFS Conventions (other than the concerts) was the Wannabees sessions. Getting to see those charts and sing that music with everyone and celebrate that iconic writing and sound is the best! You can be sure I'll never miss one of those sessions unless we have a soundcheck or something.

I think I've already written more than I was asked for, but I'll close by saying I couldn't have asked for a better three bandmates to make this music with. I think Bob, Jake, and Tommy are so incredibly talented and are wonderful humans. I cannot wait to really be able to get out there with them more regularly. Likewise, I can't wait to get out there to meet and perform for more fellow fans like yourselves.

Warmest Wishes,
Ryan Howe



Forgotten Vocalists of Pop and Jazz

by Lloyd Kaplan

So many authors have written about early jazz instrumentalists, and to a lesser extent solo vocalists, but rarely, if at all, have the great vocal trios and quartets of the past been included in their texts. This is a distorted view of America's music from the 1920s to about 1960.

Many of the early vocal groups were as equally talented and important as their instrumental counterparts; yet, these vocal groups continue to be ignored or overlooked in books about American music. The musicianship of these early singers had to be excellent, as their arrangements, many of which were very complex, were performed by memory as opposed to performing while reading sheet music on stands. Also, some groups included choreography in their acts while singing, further challenging the singers.

Early vocal groups, such as the Boswell Sisters, the Mills Brothers, and the Ravens dramatically helped bring about the acceptance of jazz, as their music appealed to national and international audiences, evidenced by the popularity of their recordings.

One of the most interesting, jazziest, and influential of these groups was the Four Freshmen, a group that has been viable from 1948 to the present time. This group remarkably continues to thrill audiences via concerts or recordings. Along the way their music has strongly influenced such groups as the Hi-Lo's, Manhattan Transfer, and The Beach Boys, to mention a few.

The Largo Event- A Nice Surprise! and Here's Why.

by Mel Myers

COVID you've heard of that - It took away our 2020 convention. That gave Bob enough time to retune the sound resulting in a favorable adjustment in the Freshmen sound.

The Performance Center hosted two concerts on the same day. They removed all of the floor seating and added tables of four 6 ft. apart. Barb and I had the pleasure of being seated at a table.

At the intermission, we sold CDs and masks at a pretty good rate. The Center folks were very cordial and cooperative, making sure we could do our "thing." But here's the thing... Bob, during these days of COVID, has managed to "recast" the group.

Retaining command, he hired Ryan Howe to sing lead and play bass, Tommy picked up the #2 voice and is playing guitar, Jake Baldwin with trumpet in hand, landed on 3rd voice, and of course Bob continued as #4 bass. The net result is we now have a Four Freshmen sound with a rich, vibrance across the entire four voices.

We haven't heard the Guys for so long, that everything old is new again. They wowed us and everyone at both shows. They had two shows because of the new seating issues.

Here is the line up and we loved every minute:

Set One

Day In Day Out
The Simple Life
You Stepped Out of a Dream
It Could Happen to You
Let Me Love You
Laura
Social Call
Love is Just Around the Corner
Angel Eyes
It's All Right with Me
I Will Wait for You
In This Whole Wide World
There Will Never Be Another You

Set Two

Ain't Seen Nothin Like You
Poinciana
Stompin at the Savoy
Guilty
So Danco Samba
The Girl From Ipanema
Jake's Walking Horn Interlude
(Awesome)
Someone Like You
The Day Isn't Long Enough
Make You Feel My Love
(Bob's new solo. GREAT)
Blue World
Route 66
Encore - *Graduation Day*



Order Your 4F Mask Today!

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!

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Fourfreshmen.com/shop



Here's that Rainy Day.

We're so sad to report that former Four Freshmen member, Ray Brown, passed away on November 11, 2020 at the age of 81. Ray sang and played keyboard with The Four Freshmen Group #5 from 1973 to 1977. Ray was a great musician and a great human being. RIP, Ray; *Here's that Rainy Day.*



We'll miss the great stories of Betty Kratzsch

Donna Gallaway, President of FFS

Nancy (Sue) Barbour has just informed the FFS of the passing of Betty Kratzsch in Warsaw, IN at the age of 91. Betty was the wife of one of the original Four Freshmen, Hal Kratzsch. Betty was an amazing woman who graced us with her presence at the 1994 convention in Oshkosh, WI and again at the Ft. Wayne, IN event in 2013 where she told some

fabulous stories during Fresh Memories. We thank you for those opportunities to learn more about Hal and his influence on The Four Freshmen

way back when the sound began. We offer our condolences to the Kratzsch family on behalf of the FFS family.



RIP Dale

We are sad to announce that our dear friend and long time manager of The Four Freshmen, Dale Sheets, has left this world. Dale was a pioneer in the entertainment industry with an illustrious career. Dale was instrumental in making The Four Freshmen a successful touring act when he and his company, International Ventures Inc., began managing The Four Freshmen back in 2001. More than that, Dale was an amazingly positive person from whom you could never walk away without receiving a warm smile and some kind words. Dale will be missed dearly. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Rest In Peace

Love,
The Four Freshmen



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 256, McGregor, TX 76657

Phone: 661-259-4500

Email: ivimanagement@me.com

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 at fourfreshmensociety.com.

February 4, 2021

Lawrenceburg, 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

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 Scholarship

Open only to members of the Four Freshmen Society.

December 3, 2021

Kerrville Bay, TX

Kathleen C. Cailloux City Center

for the Performing Arts, 910 Main St

Show time: TBA

Tickets: 830-896-9393

December 5, 2021

Horseshoe Bay, TX

Quail Point

Show time: 4:30p

Tickets: TBA

EDITOR'S NOTE

There is not going to be a convention in June. The President, Donna Gallaway, along with our CEO and Chairman of the Site Committee, Gil Peterson, are doing everything they can in relation to the convention planning yet being respectful of the health and safety of FFS members. Keeping that in mind, they feel they must postpone and reschedule our event. Please be patient, there's more to come in the next issue of Fresh News. — Barb Meyers, Fresh News Editor

The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Item	Cost	QTY	Total
5 Trombones/5 Trumpets	\$15.00		
50 Years Fresh	\$15.00		
Capitol Collector Series	\$15.00		
Culmination - Greg Stegeman (*)	\$15.00		
Faux Freshmen - Scratchin' the Surface	\$10.00		
Faux Freshmen - Seasons of the Heart	\$10.00		
Faux Freshmen - Unsung	\$15.00		
Four Freshmen (Jazz Factory)	\$15.00		
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Freshmas	\$15.00		
Freshmen Year/Voices in Latin	\$15.00		
Golden Anniversary	\$15.00		
Graduation Day	\$15.00		
In Session	\$15.00		
Ken Albers Arrangements	\$28.00		
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Live at Clearwater	\$15.00		
Live at Constitution Hall 1979 (Previously Unissued)(*)	\$15.00		
Live at Penn State (*)	\$15.00		
Live at the Franklin	\$15.00		
Live from Vegas CD	\$15.00		
Live from Vegas DVD	\$15.00		
Live from Vegas (DVD & CD)	\$25.00		
Live in Holland	\$15.00		
Live in the New Millennium	\$15.00		
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Lost Soul - Curtis Calderon	\$15.00		
Love Songs	\$15.00		
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Remembering Ken (*)	\$15.00		
Return to Romance/Live in Manchester (*)	\$15.00		
Road Shows	\$15.00		
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Star Spangled Banner - Five Pack	\$20.00		
Still Fresh	\$15.00		
The Liberty Years	\$15.00		
Through the Years (*)	\$15.00		
Voices in Brass/In Person Vol. 1	\$15.00		
Voices in Standards	\$15.00		
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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3) call 843-271-6001
or 888-448-7429

or

4) email: johnejazz@sc.rr.com

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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 _____

(*) Available to Members Only

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 up by Paul Halac. The result was a "new" CD of the Four 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 you enjoy this new material. Barbara Emerson

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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

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Thorvald & Ruth Brink, Sandusky, OH
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Fred Howe, Rochester, NY
Ryan Howe, Clinton, IA
Matthew & Becky Lynn Thren, Redding, PA

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