

Fresh News

Volume 25, No. 4

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2011

Ross Barbour, a Founding 'Freshman,' Dies at 82

By Douglas Martin Published, Ed August 23, 2011

In 1947, Ross Barbour and three other freshmen decided to take a year's break from college to take their barbershop quartet on the road. They soon morphed into the Four Freshmen, a close-harmony, jazz-inflected vocal group that is still going strong - albeit with performers who were not even born at the inception.

Mr. Barbour, who never managed to make it back to school, died at 82 on Saturday at his home in Simi Valley, CA, as the last of the founding members of the Four Freshmen. Dina Roth, a manager of the group, said the cause was lung cancer. Instead of studying, the Four Freshmen ended up teaching a fresh approach to close harmony, influencing the Beach Boys, the Mamas and the Papas, the Lettermen, the Manhattan Transfer and other groups. Their sound was characterized by long, lush chords - Mr. Barbour called them "purple chords" - and an improvisational style that made four voices seem like five or six. Each of the singers also played at least one instrument.

Brian Wilson, the genius behind the sound of the Beach Boys, was inspired by seeing the Four Freshmen when he was 15 at the Coconut Grove in Hollywood in 1958. He called them his "harmonic education."

The others in the original group were Mr. Barbour's brother Don, who was killed in a car accident in 1961; Hal Kratzsch, who died of cancer in 1970; and Bob Flanigan, who died in May.

The group has been widely described as the longest continuously performing vocal quartet of its kind in the United States, an accomplishment made possible by the constant matriculations of new freshmen. There have been a total of 23. Current members are Brian Eichenberger, Curtis Calderon, Vince Johnson and Bob Ferreira.

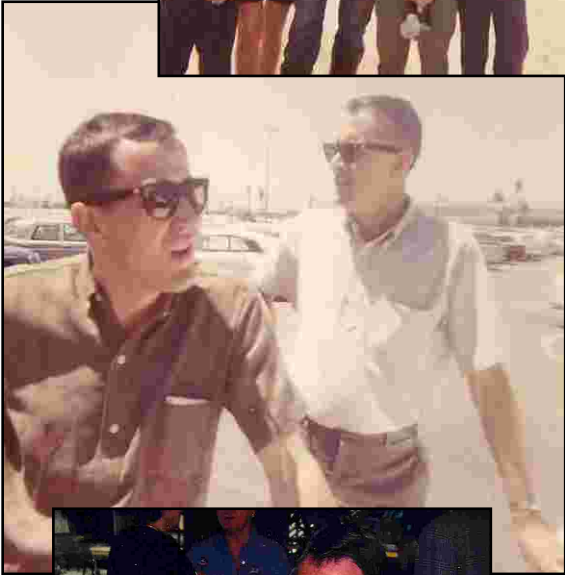
The Freshmen have recorded 50 albums and received six Grammy nominations. In the 1950s, the group's heyday, readers of *Down Beat* magazine named them best vocal group five times. In 2001, the Four Freshmen were the first group inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame.

"The Four Freshmen are the most innovative and emulated jazz vocal quartet ever to grace vinyl," Jay Warner, a music historian, wrote. "They performed with jazz greats like Duke Ellington and Count Basie."

The group's hits included *It's a Blue World*, *Mood Indigo*, *Day by Day*, *It Happened Once Before*, *How Can I Tell Her?* and *Graduation Day*.



TRIBUTES TO ROSS



“AND SO IT’S OVER...” – OR IS IT??

Now that the original Four Freshmen are together again, I believe the “sound” will continue to delight all those in heaven!

I have been a Four Freshmen fan since I was twelve years old, so the original guys have had a major influence on me for most of my life. Losing Ross (and Bob three months earlier) was a big heartache for me!

With so many memories, it is difficult to put my sentiments into words, so I will simply say:

Thank you, Ross and Bob, for the music and joy you have brought to the world and for the many things you have done for me personally. Although “it’s a blue world” here on earth, and you will be missed, I know “we’ll be together again.” — With love, Dot Lydic

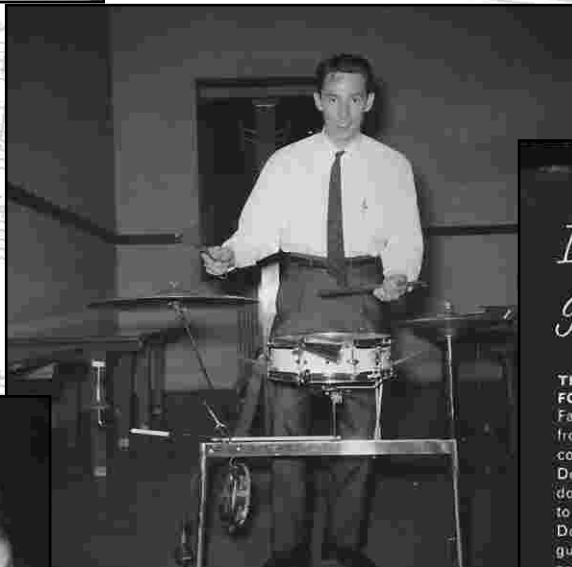
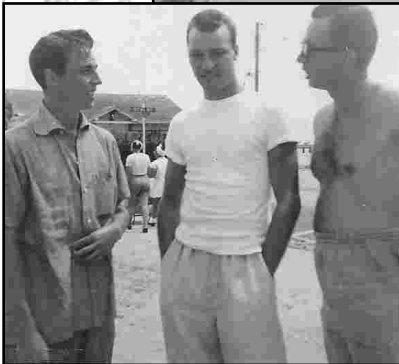
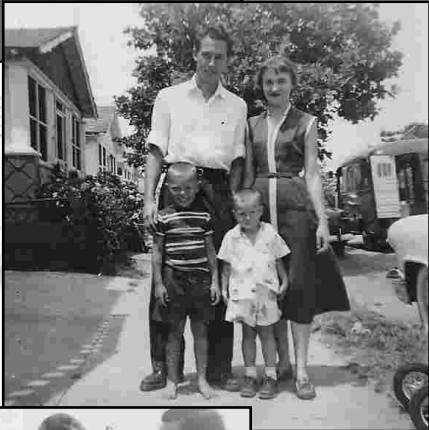
And So It's Over
Written For and Used Many Years as the
Show Closer by
Lyric and Music by
Ross Barbour

I join the many others around the world who are in mourning. I'll miss Ross's voice, his handshake, his stories, his onstage banter, his passionate spirit and his smile. The first time we met he had me with just his greeting smile. It never seemed to fade.

Still, Ross made it possible for me to also celebrate his life in every sense of that word. Few of us ever have the opportunity to uplift such a large number of people – I can't even begin to guess the number – by his singing and sharing of himself over his many years.

Ross was for his entire life that very gentle boy he sang about whose heart remained full of spring throughout his career and beyond.

Although he composed the number which for many years ended Four Freshmen shows – *And So It's Over* – it's not over for those of us Ross has left behind, thanks to all the recordings and fans and friends he made which constitute an incredible legacy. I smile through my tears. — Sincerely, Mike McCoy



In the Gibson galaxy of stars!

THE FOUR FRESHMEN
Favorite listening from campus to concert hall, these Down Beat poll winners do some inspired singing to the strumming of Don Barbour on his Gibson guitar. Capitol records them, and fans everywhere keep on demanding them for radio, TV, dances, and concerts.

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 Email: moeburn@yahoo.ca

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 Katie Balsley, Anderson, IN
 Thomas Baugh, Dearborn, MI
 Mary Bell, Toledo, OH
 Gregory & Pamela Bentschneider, Toledo, OH
 Kay & Bob Berning, Holland, OH
 Ken Boldt, Maumee, OH
 Shirley Boyer, Toledo, OH
 John & Norma Buggy, Milan, MI
 Miles Burnett, The Villages, FL
 Nancy Carson, Barrington, RI
 Wayne Carter, Henderson, NV
 Russ Cochran, West Plains, MO
 Hugh Collins, Toledo, OH
 Beverly Dalton, Maumee, OH
 Dave Daly, Henderson, NV
 Janet Davidson, St Clair Shores, MI
 Sharon Dendinger, Toledo, OH
 Donalyn & Bob Donaldson, Shadow Hills, CA
 Al & Phyllis Emery, Laguna Hills, CA
 Ernest Emery, Vista, CA
 Steven Feldman, Manalapan, NJ
 Robert Fisher, San Clemente, CA
 Robert George, Carlisle, PA
 John Gleaves, Washington, DC
 Rick Grafing, Toledo, OH
 Kent & Nan Hagemeyer, Toledo, OH
 Geri Harre, Yorba Linda, CA
 Phyllis Haughey, Mount Vernon, NH
 Merja Heinonen, Hamina, Finland
 Mary Jean Hill, Monroe, OH
 Arthur & Annette Hlywa, Oxford, CT
 Ron & Ann Howard, Ottawa Lake, MI
 Les Huff, Round Rock, TX
 Larry & Mary Icenogle, Lawton, OK

Jacob & Kathleen Israel, Plymouth, MI
 Ted Jones, Bethel, CT
 Philip Kane, West Seneca, NY
 Patti Koranda, Aurora, OH
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 Teresa Puglisi, Toledo, OH
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 Margot Reichart, Toledo, OH
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Two or more years \$17.00 each year

FFS dues are not tax deductible.

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FFS Membership Dept.

6900 Hunters Knoll NE

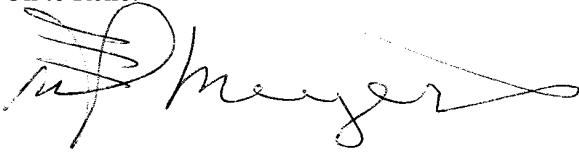
ATLANTA GA 30328-1763

Or renew online at

www.fourfreshmensociety.com/dues

From the Prez...

Barb's letter (on page 9) says it all about the convention. It took a lot of work, by a lot of people, and lots of support from the Society to put this convention on. As "they say" Give a convention and they'll come". Thank you all for being here and to the many new members I say "This is what we do"! On to Reno.



Contributions

Anderson, Robert, Orem, UT*
Baker, Dick & Bernie, Toledo, OH*
Bell, Mary, Toledo, OH*
Berning, Kay & Bob, Holland, OH*
Bjorno, Jorgen, Denmark*
Blackwell, Dave, Ft Wayne, IN*
Blincoe, Ben, Louisville, KY*
Boyer, Shirley, Toledo, OH*
Burns, Howard, Nashville, TN,*
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Gouda, Hiroshi, Japan*
Greenslate, Jim, Ashland, KY*
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Reichert, Margot, Toledo, OH*
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Roysden, Hank & Sue, Beavercreek, OH*
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Skinner, John, Carmichael, CA*
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Sveen, Kermit, Brentwood, CA*
Williams, Bob & Lynda, Baltimore, OH
Wing, Ann, Maumee, OH*

* contribution in memory of Ross Barbour

The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

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For bookings: International Ventures Incorporated

Dale Sheets & Dina Sheets-Roth
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Valencia, CA 91355

Phone: 661-259-4500 FAX: 661-259-1310

Email: info@ivimanagement.com

Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

For information or questions call: Mel Meyers 419-380-8596

October 9, 2011 Southern Pines, NC

Pinehurst Performing Arts Center/Carolina Philharmonic Robert E. Lee Auditorium, Pinecrest High School, 100 Pinecrest School Rd

Show Times: 7PM, Box Office: (910) 687-4746, www.carolinaphil.org

October 12, 2011 Jackson, MS

Trustmark Senior American Day, Mississippi Collesium on the Fairgrounds website & telephone info to be announced. ** Show admission, fair admission and parking are free for those 50 years and older. Reservations are not necessary, and all ages are welcomed.

Show Time: 12:00PM

October 21, 2011 Laconia, NH

Laconia High School, 345 Union Avenue

Show Times: TBA, Information: (603) 524-3350, Admission to concert is Free

November 10, 2011 Prescott, AZ

Yavapai College Performance Hall, Private Platinum Reception

November 11, 2011 Prescott, AZ

Yavapai College Performance Hall, 1100 E Sheldon St

Show Time: 7:30 PM, Tickets: 928-776-2000

November 13, 2011 Peoria, AZ

Skye, The Platinum Room, 16844 N. Arrowhead Fountain Center Drive

Show Times: 4:00 & 6:30 PM, Reservations: 623-334-0010

December 3, 2011 Hartford, WI

Snowfall - Holiday Concert, Schauer Arts Center, Ruth Knoll Theater, 147 N. Rural Street

Show Times: 3 PM & 7 PM, Tickets: 262-670-0560

December 6, 2011 Avon Park, FL

Performing Arts South Florida Community College, 600 W. College Drive

Show Times: 2:00 & 7:30 PM

Tickets: 863-784-7178 (The box office is closed June 24 - October 24)

Individual tickets are available for sale beginning October 24.

December 7, 2011 Palm Beach, FL

Royal Room, The Colony Hotel, 155 Hammon Ave

Tickets: 561-655-5430, Showtimes: 8 PM

December 8, 2011 Palm Beach, FL

Royal Room, The Colony Hotel, 155 Hammon Ave

Tickets: 561-655-5430, Showtimes: 8 PM

December 9, 2011 Palm Beach, FL

Royal Room, The Colony Hotel, 155 Hammon Ave

Tickets: 561-655-5430, Showtimes: 8 PM

December 10, 2011 Palm Beach, FL

Royal Room, The Colony Hotel, 155 Hammon Ave

Tickets: 561-655-5430, Showtimes: 8 PM

December 11, 2011 Largo, FL

Holiday Show, Largo Cultural Arts Center, 105 Central Park Drive

Tickets: 727-587-6793, Showtimes: 7 PM

December 17, 2011 Hopkins MN

Hopkins Center for the Arts, 1111 Mainstreet

Tickets: 952-979-1111

Ontario Canada

Moe Byrne. FFS Canada

The Four Freshmen gave a rare performance in Canada when they played the Sanderson Centre in Brantford, ON on September 16th. It wasn't a capacity crowd (the theatre has 1,100 seats) but those lucky fans who did attend were treated to a marvelous performance by our Frosh.

The concert opened with a highly talented a cappella group from Toronto called Countermeasure that executed us with their jazz sounds and got us revved up for what was to follow. Bob (Ferreira) had high praise for this amazing group when the Freshmen took the state. My friends John and Wilma Canham had been to Toledo for the convention but were still hungry for more; it was a thrill to see the Freshmen perform on our home turf.

We invited everyone we know here to come out to see them and were rewarded by their positive comments after the show.

The Freshmen were in top form and praised the beautiful theatre and sound system. They sang from *Live in Holland*, *Live Trombones*, *In Session* and more. We also heard *Stardust*, *A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square* and the Tony Bennett number, *Plenty Of Money And You*. But when they sang *Surfer Girl*, the audience was swept away! And, Oh how they loved the special humor and kidding around by the guys as most of the audience hadn't seen Group #22 before. I'm sure it brought back many memories of the early groups we grew up with.

We owe a big thanks to Frank Di Felice and the Brantford International Jazz Festival for bringing the Freshmen here to Ontario. Let's hope this will be the start of something BIG!

The Real Origin of the Four Freshmen Fan Club ...Really!

The origin of the Four Freshmen Society (nee. Four Freshmen Appreciation Society) is generally considered to have had its beginnings about 1987 under the auspices of Edd Townsend. BUT, two teenage girls had about a thirty year head start on Ol' Edd. Babs Pleischi and Dot Matviya were stalking our guys back in the 1950's! Dot has sent to us several photos from back in the day and it is obvious that they were the first of the really dedicated fans of this very special music. Babs Frederich and Dot Lydic were both in attendance in Toledo recently and posed for a picture with the current crop of Freshmen, Twenty-one groups later. Only a very few of us can trace our earliest love of this music back to the very beginning! Enjoy the photos; we'll include some others in future editions.



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Deadlines for consideration of articles:

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

Submit manuscripts to the Editor:

Tom Purvis

tpurvis@bex.net

News from the Annual Board of Directors Meetings

The Convention selection committee recommended, and the Board has approved, Reno, Nevada as the site of the 2012 Annual Convention. The dates are October 4, 5 and 6th, 2012 at Harrah's Hotel and Casino. Mark your calendars now! Full details and registration information will be included in a future edition of Fresh News.

Also...Ft. Wayne, Indiana was selected as the site for the 2013 Convention and the dates are September 5,6 an 7th 2013. This does assume that the Mayans were wrong and the world does not end in 2012! The site is a downtown hotel and convention facility on the site of the original Club 113 where the Freshmen had their professional beginning!

Chaz Cone, our Membership Director reports that 2011 is on track to show the biggest increase in membership in a decade. That is the good news...however we continue to be unable to retain paid members. Record keeping began in 1987 and through the years we have had a collective total of 3,923 household members. TODAY WE HAVE ONLY 1,505... WE HAVE LOST MORE THAN HALF OF THOSE WHO HAVE EVER JOINED. We suspect, but cannot really confirm, that our collective ages may be reflected in these numbers. Not likely for a turn around unless we do not continue to recruit from the baby boomers! The Freshmen are performing at three colleges in September 2011 but we are not likely to grab any college age members... They seem to enjoy the music but are not "joiners."

The Four Freshmen Society continues to be very sound financially and our treasury has been deemed adequate for us to provide significant funding to the Freshmen for a new recording effort. They have been working on a new album for some time, untitled but to be a collection of love songs, arranged by Brian. Their plans include have professional instrumental backup, probably to include strings to hopefully propel this effort more into the entertainment mainstream. They showcased a few of the new songs in Toledo and they were very well received. A more detailed discussion of the project appears in the column to the right.

Board of Directors Approves Funds for New Freshmen Album

(editors note)

The following message from Board Member Dave Bentley describes in some detail how this recording project developed. Some of the details have changed but it still represents the substance of the project. The Freshmen have been rehearsing the new songs and plan to move into the studio in California very soon. They have introduced a few of the new songs into their performances and they have been well received by their knowledgeable audiences. The costs of this album are still in development however we have determined that the funds donated in memory of Ross Barbour will be used for this project and serve as a tribute to Ross and his loyal fans and friends. The funding of this project, while significant, will not seriously impact our financial standing.

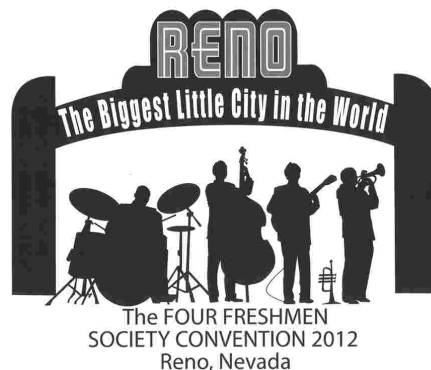
Some time ago - maybe 8 months - I contacted an old friend who is one of the better jazz writers/critics extant - one Doug Ramsey. I asked him how, in his opinion, the Freshmen could gain some more stature, make a bigger impact on the audience they were attempting to reach; namely, those interested in this kind of music. I told Doug that the boys were performing at the very top of their profession, and that they were keenly aware that, as a jazz-oriented group, they would not/could not reach mass, but rather class. Much like a b to b magazine, they appealed to a very codified segment of America. I had sent Doug a couple of their albums and he was impressed with their professionalism and sound. His answer was simple: get them a publicist. I asked him who and he gave me the name of Terri Hinte, who he had known for a long, long time and who had been the A&R person for Fantasy for 30 years. As well, she had been handling Sonny Rollins for 40 years, so it was a fair statement to say she knew what she was talking about. I contacted Terri and we had a number of long phone conversations. She was interested, she said, but needed to hear how they sounded now. I sent *In Person* and *Snowfall*. She was impressed and said the only way to really go about this was to have them produce some new product, that older stuff would not work.

Back to Doug: I asked him his opinion of the kind of album they should pursue, and his answer was quick: 'have them do love songs, as that is really their milieu'. Pushing ahead a bit more I asked for some tunes, and again, quickly, he came back with - standards such as *Body & Soul* and *Stardust*.

Enter Brian who I called and talked to about Terri, Doug and the idea. He was intrigued, and started the process of tune selection and chart writing. He has done that with exceptional skill.

Nothing has been said about cost for this project to Terri, but safe to say she won't come pro bono.

This is a grand opportunity for the boys, for the society and for the sound we love and support. This album, as yet unnamed, could be seminal, could be the very best that has come from anyone's pen. The idea Brian has put forward for orchestration, for Jeff Hamilton, et al is superb, and I support his request without hesitation. Our bank account seems in reasonable shape and it is time for something truly remarkable to be released. This could be a transformational/transitional album, showcasing this wonderful talent in a way they and we can be very proud of.



The Four Freshmen Society Inc.

Music Mart - Price List 2010

See Item # on "CD Song List" for detail

Item Title	Cost	Total
DVD Live From Las Vegas	\$30	_____
Each additional	\$25	_____
1. CD Live From Las Vegas	\$20	_____
2.* Remembering Ken	\$10	_____
3. Snowfall	\$20	_____
4. Live/Millennium		_____
5. Voices in Modern		_____
6. Voices and		_____
7. Live		_____
8. In Se		_____
9. 50 Ye		_____
10. From t		_____
11. Gradua		_____
12. Voices in		_____
13. Still Fresh		_____
14. Freshmas		_____
15.* Return to Ro		_____
16. Capitol Collec	\$15	_____
17. Trombones /Trumpets	\$14	_____
18. Five Saxes/Guitars	\$20	_____
19. Voices in Latin/Fresh Year	\$17	_____
20. Love Lost I Voices Love	SOLD OUT	_____
21. First Affair Notices Fun	\$20	_____
22. Swingers/Stars In Eyes	SOLD OUT	_____
23. More Trombone/Person II	\$17	_____
24. Live at Butler University	\$15	_____
25.* Old Friends	\$20	_____
26.* Live at Penn State	\$15	_____
27. The Liberty Years	\$17	_____
28.* Through the Years	\$15	_____
29. 50th Golden Anniversary	\$17	_____
30. WAZE / Clearwater Jazz	\$15	_____
31. Nine CD's Box Set	SOLD OUT	_____
32. Star Spangled Banner	\$5	_____
5 for	\$20	_____
33. Silly Songs / Rhymes	\$15	_____
34. Lost Soul - Baker Tribute	\$15	_____
35. Ken Albers Charts	\$28.50	_____
Overseas	+\$5.00	_____
36. Discography	\$15	_____
37.* Video Pittsburgh 2006	\$10	_____
38.* Video Grand Rapids 2004	\$15	_____
39.* Video Oshkosh 1991	\$15	_____
40.* Video Stockholm	\$15	_____
Culmination, G. Stegeman	\$17	_____
41. Four Freshmen & Live Trombones	\$20	_____
42.* Atlanta DVDs	\$25	_____

Overseas add \$5.00 for most items

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

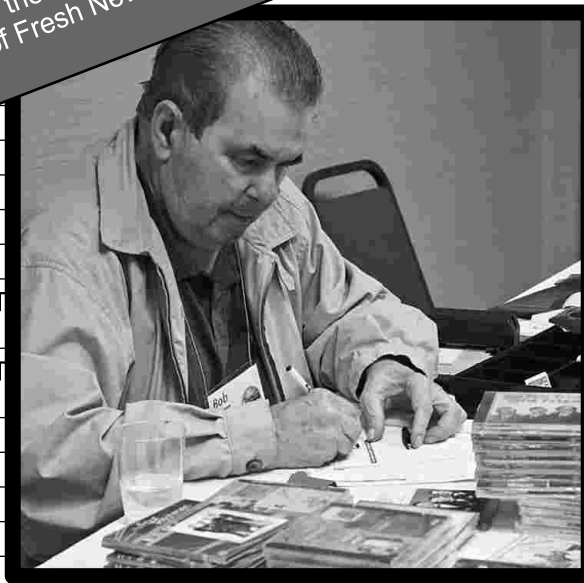
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 PO Box 11475
 Pittsburgh, PA 15238-9998
 412-781-5268
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MUSIC MART IN TRANSITION

The FFS Music Mart will close on or about October 15 to reopen at a new location in January 2012. Bob Lininger, our Music Mart Director for about ten years, has elected to retire from this time consuming position due to considerations of age and health. Bob has been an excellent Director of this effort and he will be missed. Details on the relocated Music mart will be included in the January 2012 issue of Fresh News.



Cost \$ _____
 \$ 1.00
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The Four Freshmen Society, Inc.

and Overseas members eligible)
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(on back of card) _____

Print Name as it appears on card _____

Authorized Signature _____

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City _____

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Country _____

10 Digit Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Convention Recap

"And So It's Over"...

Barbara Meyers, Chairman of the 2011 Convention

The 2011 Convention is over. It is hard to believe since I have been living it for two years. I'm in the midst of cleaning up loose ends and then it will really be over. I never thought I would say this, but I think I will miss it. Just a little!

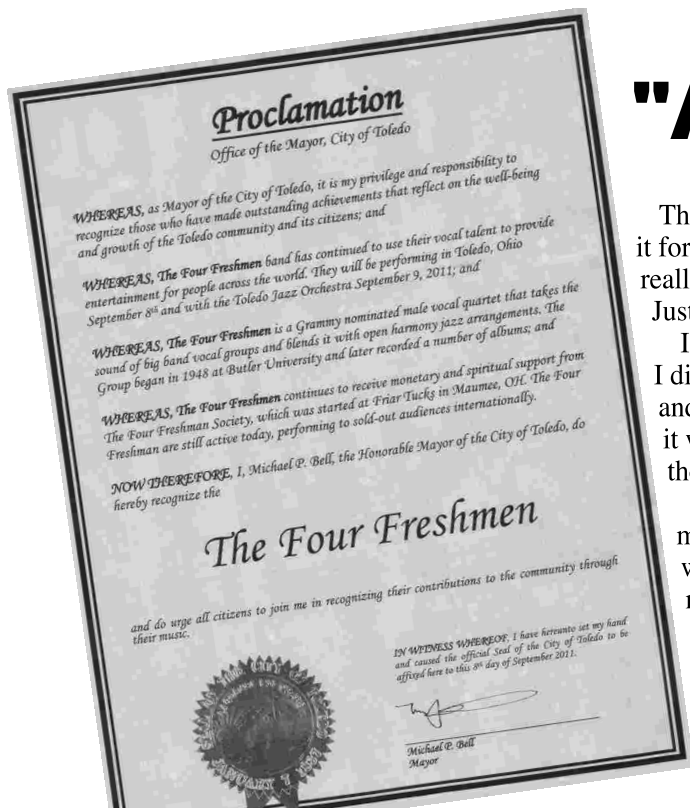
I want to thank everyone who came and hope you all had a good time! I didn't try to make it the best, but I hope it was memorable. We lost Bob and Ross within 100 days and that alone made it hard to comprehend how it would all come together. The Memorial, I hope celebrated the Men and their Music.

I knew from the beginning that I would put most of my effort into the music and with the help of Mel, my music chairman, we brought to life what we hoped would be a combination of old times with Stan Kenton music and what it brought to The Four Freshmen. Brian, Bob, Vince and Curtis will be the gift that Bob and Ross left us.

I would like to thank my Co-Chairman Jean Emery, my Registration Chairman Donna Gallaway and my Club 113 Chairman Christian Rank. I could not have done it without them. Our newest and youngest members, our God-daughter Debbie Frey and her husband Bob who knew when they looked at me I needed a glass of wine! All the people who volunteered to be on my committee were wonderful. The Merckles, the Murphys, the Maps, the Roysdens, the Roessings, Jim Ammon, Jim Malohn, Barbara Finch and Mary Jane Weipert. I hope whoever volunteers to do this in the future has as good a committee as I had.

I would also like to thank Yas Ichiura and Dan de la Torre, for making videos for the Memorial, and Palle Christensen for leading the Memorial. How could we ever do without Dan's wonderful artwork and all the time he puts in for our logos and Chaz Cone for his computer expertise that kept me in the modern world.

Last, but, certainly not least, The Four Freshmen for giving us two great shows and putting up with all of our adoration for three days.



Bob's Trombone

Chaz Cone, FFS Membership Director, Webmaster and Database dude www.fourfreshmensociety.com

At the beginning of Thursday night's Jam Session, Barb Meyers made a presentation. When Bob Flanigan was near the end of his run, he asked Mary to make sure that his trombone made its way to long-time FFS member Yas Ichiura as a gift.

After Bob passed away, Mary had it packed up and shipped to Mel & Barb Meyers, the Toledo convention co-chair. Mel took the trombone to the leader of the Toledo Jazz Orchestra (his instrument is the trombone) to check it out. He pronounced it "ready to swing" so Barb presented it to Yas just as the jam session began.

What a wonderful gift from Bob to a wonderful FFS fan, Yas.



Here's Yas (on the right) playing Bob's (now his) trombone for the first time at the jam session. I know Bob was smiling...

The other trombone is Ron Kischuk, leader of the TJO. After he checked Bob's trombone, he asked if he could play on Thursday with the backup trio from his orchestra; he added so much to the evening.

Friday Night Concert in Toledo

by Ann Smith, Texas Coordinator

During our casual buffet dinner, we were treated to the piano music of Josh Silver, a very talented young man.

Since, as adoring fans, we have to know these things, it was mentioned during the course of things that Bob and Vince are both 41 now, Curtis is 37, and Brian is 35.

For those of you who weren't there (and for those of us who would like to reminisce), the rundown of the program is given, in order, as follows: *Something's Got to Give*, *You Stepped Out of a Dream*, *Graduation Day*, *Young and Foolish*, *You've Got Me Crying Again*, *It's Alright With Me*, *The Day Isn't Long Enough*, and *Somebody Loves Me*.

Switching from four mikes to one common mike, the guys sang: *After You*. This was followed by: *A Nightingale Sang In Barkley Square* and *With Plenty of Money and You* (sung by Tony Bennett). Neither of these two songs has ever been recorded by the Four Freshmen, but will be on the new CD. An interesting side note: still at one single mike Bob (not on the drum set at that time) played brushes on a metal pan with a mouse pad in it. (They're such fun!) Also on a single mike the Freshmen performed *Give Me the Simple Life*.

Returning to four individual mikes, our guys sang a very rousing rendition of *After You've Gone*. After a break, the Freshmen continued on four mikes with: *Route 66*, *In This Whole Wide World*, and *That Old Feeling*.

Moving once again to a single mike, we were treated to: *Poinciana*, *I Can't Believe That You're In Love With Me*, *Stardust Serenade* (also never recorded by the FF – and on the new CD), *There Will Never Be Another You*, *Little Girl Blue*, and *You Made Me Love You*.

Dedicated to Bob Flanigan and Ross Barbour, the Freshmen sang: *It's A Blue World Without You* and *Day By Day*.

Moving back to four mikes, the guys rounded out the evening with: *Every Time We Say Goodbye* and *Day In, Day Out*.

For an encore, the Four Freshmen enchanted us with the haunting song, *Laura*.

A very important after note is that the evening ended with an afterglow scheduled in the hotel bar. It was so well attended that it spilled out into the adjoining restaurant. Having an afterglow on the program schedule (and in the hotel) was a really nice touch. It saved trying to get a group together after the show and then hope to find someplace that was open that late. (Not to mention that it rained a lot while we were there.) Thanks for that wonderful addition to our schedule, Barb (afterglows, not rain).

We hope to see afterglows on our schedule from now on at our conventions.

Saturday Night Concert in Toledo

by Ann Smith, Texas Coordinator

Once again we were delighted to listen to the piano music of Josh Silver during our dinner. The Toledo Jazz Orchestra, an outstanding group, opened for the Freshmen with some great numbers, many of them from the great Stan Kenton. It was really wonderful. They said they had figured out what we like and had adjusted their selections accordingly. For the rest of the evening, they accompanied the Freshmen during their entire evening's concert. The following is a listing, in order, of the numbers that the Freshmen treated us to.

It's Alright With Me, *Fools Rush In*, *If I Had You*, *You Stepped Out of a Dream*, *Our Love Is Here To Stay*, *Somebody Loves Me*, *Somethin's Gotta Give*, *I'm Always Chasing Rainbows*, *Rain*, *You Made Me Love You*, *Guilty*, and *There Will Never Be Another You*.

After an intermission, the Freshmen continued with the big band on the following numbers: *Day In, Day Out*, *In This Whole Wide World*, *Walking My Baby Back Home* (vocals and orchestra arranged by Greg Stegeman), *Mamselle*, *Candy*, *Angel Eyes*, *Poinciana*, *Day by Day* (really hot), and *It's a Blue World Without You*. The whole program reached its final crescendo with a Freshmen/big band version of *Route 66* that completely blew us away. The Four Freshmen, with the orchestra behind them, sounded better than ever before – and they always sound super. Sure wish we had a recording of it all.

The evening was capped off with another scheduled afterglow in the hotel bar and restaurant. Many celebrants attended and rejoiced in the wonderful evening and fine company.

Let's do it again next year!



Brunch with the Comstocks

by Ann Smith,
Texas Coordinator

I was privileged to have breakfast with Bill Comstock and his son, Geoffrey, on Sunday morning of the Toledo convention.



Bill was telling me that he had once played with Andre Previn. They both just happened to be at the same party once at someone's house. I didn't know that Bill considers the piano to be his primary instrument. However, he didn't play the piano with him. Instead, he played ping pong with Andre Previn. Isn't that a great story!



Sunday Morning Sing-along In Toledo

by Ann Smith, Texas Coordinator

At several conventions, a small group of us has gotten together to sing one last time before leaving on Sunday. It had begun to look like we wouldn't be able to get a room to sing in; but it all worked out finally. This is usually a last minute roundup of a few diehard singers who just haven't had enough yet. There were about seven of us in Toledo that morning, accompanied by our great pianist, Bill Martin. We spent almost as much time telling Freshmen stories as we did singing Freshmen songs. At the end of our session, I told everyone that this had been like the whipped cream and cherry topping on an already wonderful desert. *See you next year in Reno!*

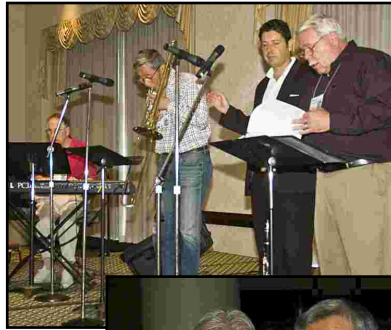
Your Freshmen Story

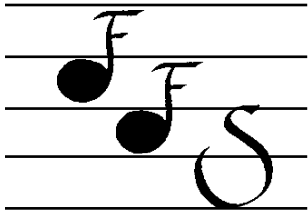
by Ann Smith, Texas Coordinator

We had a small impromptu gathering one afternoon during the Toledo convention. We had about 15 people show up for it. The idea was to go around the room and have everyone answer three questions:

- (1) When is the first time you remember ever hearing the Four Freshmen?
- (2) When is the first time you ever saw the Freshmen perform?
- (3) How did you happen to become a member of the Four Freshmen Society?

We got to hear some very interesting stories and had a lot of fun. After all, who doesn't enjoy telling and hearing Freshmen stories at the convention. Anyway, the idea is that we'd like to make this a scheduled part of our annual convention. So hopefully we'll be doing this again next year in Reno. I hope to see you in Reno and to have you join our discussion group. Now we have to think of a name for it. Have you got any ideas?





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