

**“MY FAVORITE BAND  
TO WATCH PERFORM LIVE.”**

BRIAN WILSON, THE BEACH BOYS

**“...SINGING A SUPER-TIGHT, ULTRA-HIP  
FOUR-PART HARMONY...DOWNRIGHT ELECTRIC,  
INDUCING CHILLS.”**

Palm Beach Daily News  
THE SHINY SHEET®

**“THE FOUR FRESHMEN HAVE ENDURED [BECAUSE]  
THEY ARE TOPS IN THEIR CLASS.”**

CHARLES OSGOOD, FORMER CBS NEWS ANCHOR

**“ULTRA-TALENTED QUARTET  
OF VOCALISTS.”**

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.



**The Four Freshmen**

[www.fourfreshmen.com](http://www.fourfreshmen.com)

# THE FOUR FRESHMEN



**BOB FERREIRA** Singing fourth part and playing drums, Ferreira began his life of music in high school playing drums in a rock band. He subsequently joined his high school chamber choir and vocal jazz ensemble in Bothell, Washington. After graduating high school, Bob auditioned and was accepted into the notable vocal jazz ensemble “Soundsation” at Edmonds Community College under the direction of former Four Freshmen, Kirk Marcy. Ferreira then transferred to Central Washington University where he began pursuing his degree in Music Education. It was there where the Four Freshmen, by Marcy’s recommendation, offered Ferreira a position in the legendary vocal group. In his tenure with the Freshmen, Ferreira has performed in all 50 states, over 10 countries and is credited on 11 recordings with the Freshmen. When he is not touring, Bob enjoys his time at home in Las Vegas, playing drums in various bands and jam sessions, pursuing amateur photography, and spending quality time with family and friends.

**STEIN MALVEY** sings the 2nd tenor and plays guitar with The Four Freshmen. Growing up in Northfield, Minnesota, he began his musical journey at age four, studying piano. Growing restless with classical repertoire, he discovered guitar at age 12, and fell in love. Stein holds a Bachelor of Music degree in guitar performance from Lawrence University Conservatory of Music. Stein's broad musical interests have led him to record and tour with groups in many genres: rock, pop, R&B, soul, funk, jazz, country, and avant-garde. While on tour, Stein enjoys seeking out great coffee and collecting vinyl records. When not touring with The Four Freshmen, Stein lives in Los Angeles.

**TOMMY BOYNTON** Singing 1st tenor and playing bass, Tommy grew up in Aurora, Colorado. His musical journey began in the 3rd grade, singing in a children’s chorus, and studying piano and drums. Tommy’s love for music lead him to Phil Mattson’s prestigious School for Music Vocations (SMV) in Creston, Iowa. He then graduated from the New England Conservatory in Boston, Massachusetts in 2012, where he studied with Dominique Eade and Ran Blake. Boynton continued to share his love and passion for music by returning to SMV where he taught for the three years until he joined the Freshmen. He is an avid soccer player and cyclist and has toured across the Midwest and around the Pacific Northwest on his bicycle. He currently resides in Fairfield, Iowa. While on the road, he misses his kitties, Alice and Little Brother, and his dog, Yoda.

**JAKE BALDWIN** sings 3rd part and plays the trumpet. His musical life began at 10 years old in Florence, Oregon where he choose to try the trumpet in school band and was immediately enamored with it. Jake attended the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts and holds a bachelors degree in Jazz Studies. He placed third in the 2010 International Trumpet Guild’s Jazz Trumpet Competition, 2nd in the 2013 National Trumpet Competition’s Jazz division, and he was a finalist in the 2019 Carmine Caruso International Jazz Trumpet competition. Jake currently resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota and is one of the most in demand freelance trumpet players in the twin cities with performances ranging from his own original jazz groups to the Minnesota Orchestra.

# The Four Freshmen



Singing with a harmony uniquely their own, The Four Freshmen have enamored listeners world-wide for years, while gaining recognition as one of the most influential vocal groups of all time. Their tight-knit sound inspired The Beach Boys' Brian Wilson, The Mamas & The Papas, Frankie Valli and the Manhattan Transfer.

It all started in 1948, when four college freshmen crafted a unique style of vocal harmony that soon caught the ear of the great bandleader Stan Kenton. Kenton was responsible for bringing the Freshmen to Capitol Records, where they would eventually record 23 albums, thrusting them into the national spotlight.

The Freshmen have recorded over 75 albums, 70 top selling singles, and received 6 Grammy Nominations. The four have toured constantly since their inception, continuing to perform to sold out audiences around the globe. The integrity of the sound created by the original guys has been meticulously maintained.

While paying tribute to such classic Freshmen favorites as "**Day By Day**" and "**Blue World**," the current group also continues to bring new arrangements to their live shows and recordings. In concert The Freshmen shine on brand new arrangements of "**Come Fly with Me**" and "**I Ain't Got Nobody**". Within their show you will also hear the body swaying "**Summer Samba**". One can't forget the toe tapping "**Route 66**".

As four amazing musical talents, their show is one not to be missed! Whether accompanied by a big band, symphony orchestra or self-contained; their youth, vitality, and talent adds a modern twist of elegance to a time-honored sound. The Four Freshmen are Great Gentlemen of Song and True Masters of Harmony.

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# The Four Freshmen

**America's most enduring vocal group. True masters of harmony.**

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**"Universally hailed as pioneers of the jazz-infused close harmony sound, the Four Freshmen have few rivals in the vocal group harmony field." Goldmine**

**"I have loved the Freshmen harmony since the first time I heard them. They are my favorite band to watch perform live." Brian Wilson**

**"The Four Freshmen have endured for the simple reason that they are tops in their class." Charles Osgood**

**"...singing a super-tight, ultra-hip four-part harmony over a foundation of straight-ahead jazz...borderline magical downright electric, inducing chills." Palm Beach Daily News**

**"An Ultra talented Quartet of Vocalists" Wall Street Journal**

**"Unisons, harmonies, open voicings, movable inner parts—all so beautiful and so, so modern. The Four Freshmen of today are as good as the band during the Ken Albers days. ... the Four Freshmen are still making great music."**

**Tim Hauser The Manhattan Transfer**

**"With a trunk-full of tried and true melodies, a friendly stage presence and a soaring harmony that was so tight a sheet of paper couldn't slide between it." Lebanon Daily News**

**"Long live The Four Freshmen. May they never graduate!" Wall Street Journal**

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# Four Freshmen collection finds a home at BGSU

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 3:00 pm

By Roger LaPointe, Sentinel-Tribune Staff Writer

Just before rock 'n' roll burst on the scene, the Four Freshmen were cranking out vocal jazz hits on the radio, with live tours and cameos on the silver screen.

The band that has been together since 1948 will have its archives in a special collection at Bowling Green State University's Bill Schurk Sound Archives. The new collection came into the BGSU music library from the Four Freshmen Music Foundation.



The Schurk Archives were chosen for several reasons, but part of it was that it has a facility where the Four Freshmen Music Foundation board could hold meetings. It is also a free, public facility where fans can examine the memorabilia.

The Four Freshmen had many hits, but they are most known for their first, "It's a Blue World." The group's original members were Bob Flanigan, Ross Barbour, Don Barbour and Hal Kratzsch. Known for their four-part harmonies, they also accompanied themselves on drums, bass, guitar and horns.

"What's interesting is (the collection) shows how the fans interact with the artists. These are very passionate fans," said Susannah Cleveland, the head of the music library and sound archives at BGSU.

The Four Freshmen signed on to Capitol Records after being discovered by Stan Kenton.

The Beach Boys covered the group's "Graduation Day" in 1964. In his biography, "Inside the Music of Brian Wilson: The Songs, Sounds and Influences of the Beach Boys' Founding Genius," Wilson described playing the song.

"Fascinated. I absorbed every note of every song, figuring out how the lush, intricate harmonies were woven together, discovering on my own how to do it myself," Wilson said.

There were already more than 100 recordings of the Four Freshmen in the Schurk Archives, but this will add to the history of the band and to the history of the workings and development of the music industry, Cleveland said.

In the first shipment of memorabilia, which arrived the first week of June, there are most notably a half dozen songs on a large ½ inch reel master tape. There are also LPs, 45s, compact discs and VHS videos. There is also sheet music, lyrics and scores.

There is also a range of other memorabilia including posters, playbills, ticket stubs, stories from newspapers and magazines and personal photos.

The band was founded at Butler University, in Indianapolis, and the Barbour brothers were from Columbus.

(This story has been corrected, to eliminate some confusion about various fan clubs.)

# READING EAGLE

## Concert review:

### Four Freshmen join Pops orchestra in dreamlike collaboration

**The show Sunday at the Miller Center for the Arts features beautiful love songs and lush arrangements.**

SUNDAY JANUARY 27, 2019 07:30 PM

Contact Susan L. Pena: [life@readingeagle.com](mailto:life@readingeagle.com).

**A concert by the Four Freshmen with the Reading Pops Orchestra is like soaking in a warm bath and being presented with a bouquet of fragrant roses.**

**You're floating in a dream world of some of the world's most beautiful love songs, with romantic lyrics, sung by four perfectly matched male voices in close harmony, over lush arrangements.**

On Sunday afternoon at the Miller Center for the Arts, the Pops, led by Willis Rapp, celebrated the opening of their 50th season with their third collaboration with the Freshmen, who are celebrating 70 years of that distinctive vocal sound, featuring their 25th incarnation.

Bass vocalist and drummer Bob Ferreira, it was pointed out, has been with the quartet the longest — 26 years — which also happens to be the age of the youngest and newest member, baritone and trumpeter Jon Gaines. Their other two mates are lead tenor and electric bassist Tommy Boynton and second tenor and electric guitarist Stein Malvey.

Like the original Freshmen, who created the sound based on barbershop singing and Stan Kenton's trombone section, **these four are both top-notch instrumentalists and honey-voiced vocalists.** They sang some of the original quartet's arrangements, and added many examples of their more recent work, including two brand-new orchestral arrangements that had their premieres Sunday. The latter were "Day by Day," which opened the program, and "Come Fly With Me," commissioned for Frank Sinatra's 100th birthday, played near the end.

With only a few exceptions, **Gaines performed on a flugelhorn, producing a delicious tone on every solo**, and only broke out the trumpet for the more uptempo "Day In, Day Out," played without the Pops, which the original Freshmen played with the Stan Kenton Band.

Malvey was featured as a guitar soloist on two arrangements of songs by the Brazilian composer Carlos Antonio Jobim: "So Danco Samba" and the iconic bossa nova "Girl From Ipanema," sung in English and Portuguese. **The Freshmen's mellow vocals were a good fit for Brazilian jazz.**

They paid tribute to the original Freshmen (Bob Flanigan, Ross and Don Barbour, and Hal Kratzsch) by singing some of the very earliest hits: the soft Latin "Poinciana" and "It's a Blue World," with **lovely orchestral arrangements** behind them.

They dug deep into the American Songbook with **excellent renditions** of "It Could Happen to You," "Fools Rush In," "Laura," "A Nightingale Sang in Old Berkeley Square," "It's All Right With Me," "Stardust," "Nancy," a swinging "You Made Me Love You," an uptempo "There Will Never Be Another You" (minus the Pops), "How Can I Tell Her?," and "My One and Only Love."

They finished with "The Day Isn't Long Enough," as an encore for the **blissed-out audience.**

## Stein Malvey on The Four Freshmen, Led Zeppelin and Gear



The Four Freshmen started out as a barbershop quartet, harmonizing, touring and recording since 1948. For 70 years, The Four Freshmen has seen 22 members work in the group since its original lineup. Stein Malvey is one of the members of its latest incarnation.

Stein sings second tenor and plays guitar in this enduring quartet. He describes himself as a “bit of a musical chameleon” and his broad musical interests see him involved in other projects outside of jazz.

We speak to Stein and talk about his influences, his time in The Four Freshmen, and his gear.



**Tell us how you got into music. What was one of the key moments that made you want to be a musician?**

When I was a little kid, I loved the Beach Boys. My dad took me to see them when I was about four or five. I didn't know exactly where California was, but I knew it wasn't close to Minnesota. I realized they were traveling around, playing this music I loved, and that was it. I pretty much decided that day I was going to be a musician.

**Who were some of your early musical influences?**

I was 12 when I jumped ship from piano to guitar. I was really into the early Aerosmith records, and those riffs were fairly accessible and super fun. Soon after, I found a cassette of Led Zeppelin IV. I took it home, and the tape inside was actually Houses of The Holy. The first Zep song I ever heard was Song Remains The Same, and I couldn't believe what I was hearing. That's still my favorite Zep record. I've always loved a lot of different music, whether it was pop, heavier rock stuff, Motown, classic punk bands, etc. In high school, I heard John Coltrane's recording of My Favorite Things, and that sort of changed everything for me. I went down the rabbit hole with jazz after that, even though I still listened to all kinds of other music.

**You've got a Bachelor of Music degree in guitar performance from Lawrence University Conservatory of Music. What led you to pursue this degree?**

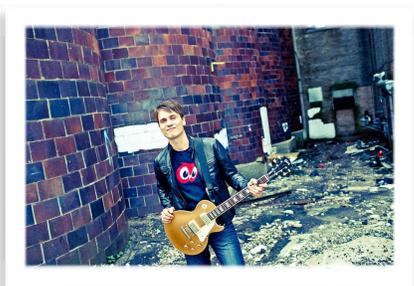
Going to college was important to me, and music is the only thing I've ever wanted to do, so it was kind of a no-brainer. I was really lucky to study jazz composition and arranging under Ken Schaphorst and guitar with Michael Nicolella.

**If there's one invaluable lesson you learned from your time in university, what would that be?**

Show up on time and prepared.

**How did you end up as a member of The Four Freshmen?**

I met The Four Freshmen's former lead singer, Brian Eichenberger, about ten years ago when we were both living in Minneapolis. He had completed a solo record of songs in the vein of Steely Dan, Sting, and Stevie Wonder, and was putting together a band to play the songs live. A mutual friend recommended me, and



we started playing together. The project was short-lived, but we remained in touch. Then in 2013, he asked me if I'd be interested in joining the Freshmen. Two weeks later, the four of us met in LA for tacos, and they offered me the job. They gave me about eight charts to learn and set a rehearsal date. In hindsight, the rehearsal was a very soft audition that was really about getting to know each other and preparing for shows.

**The Four Freshmen go all the way back to 1948. How has the band today evolved and how does the current line-up continue the band's legacy?**

The crazy thing about this band is that it has been going non-stop for 70 years. It was never on moth balls, sold to someone else, etc. A person might leave the band, but someone else would come in, and it just kept rolling along as usual. We definitely honor the legacy of the group, and rotate in different songs from the group's 70+ recordings. But we also incorporate new arrangements by different members of the current band. There are a lot of songs from the Great American Songbook, but also more contemporary songs, and originals, too.



**Aside from jazz music, what other genres do you enjoy playing? Tell us a bit about your gigs outside the Four Freshmen.**

There's so much great music out there, across the musical spectrum, I'm trying to take part in as much as I can. Living in LA is great that way, because there's opportunity to collaborate with all kinds of different musicians. I'm in a rock band called Teen Judge, which is so much fun. I laugh so much with those guys, it's like an ab workout. I like to call experimental, all-improvised stuff "adventure music," and that brings me a lot of joy. I really love playing with singer-songwriters, too. Creating interesting guitar parts that support the song, singing harmonies, it's kind of the perfect melting pot of my experiences.

**If you could collaborate with any artist, past or present, who would that be and why?**

I think Aimee Mann is among the very best songwriters anywhere, and probably my personal favorite at the moment. That would be pretty incredible. It would have been crazy to play with Sun Ra or Ornette Coleman, too.

**Tell us a bit about your gear. What's in the bag?**



Well, there's the Four Freshmen side, and then the "everything else" side. With the Freshmen, I play a Gibson ES-339 straight into a rented amp, usually a Fender Deluxe Reverb. Simple, and also, nowhere to hide! LOL.

Outside of the Four Freshmen, I'm somewhat traditional in terms of guitars, and have a number of different Fenders and Gibsons. More and more, I feel like the Telecaster is the single greatest guitar ever made, because you can play anything on it. Moolton sent me a Classic T, and that's been blowing my mind. I'm surprised more people don't know about those. My buddy Chris at Belltower Guitars is almost finished with a "T-



style" guitar built to my specs, and I'm really excited about that. A continuing adventure has been experimenting with different pedals to create subtle and not-so-subtle textures.

Amp-wise, I have a couple of vintage Fender amps, a Super Reverb, and a Vibro Champ. Lately, I rely on a Morgan AC40, which is just incredible. I also use a Divided by 13 LDW for the more Marshall-y stuff, and that's another really great amp.

**What MONO gear do you use at home, in the studio or on tour?**

I have both the dual and single M80 Electric Cases, a Vertigo Semi-Hollow Guitar Case, and the Tick. I have flown with all of them, and even had to gate check the Dual Case a few times, and not had a problem.

**What is it that you like about your MONO pieces?**

They're so well designed! The way the guitar is supported, with the endpin padding, the neck cradle, etc., the bags have more in common with a hard case than an ordinary gig bag. I love how many storage spots there are, it makes it easy to keep track of the little stuff like capos and tools. For me, a gig bag with just one or two massive pockets makes it really easy to lose stuff, if that makes sense. Also, the pouch on the back, where you can tuck in the shoulder straps, is the perfect spot for set lists and sheet music!

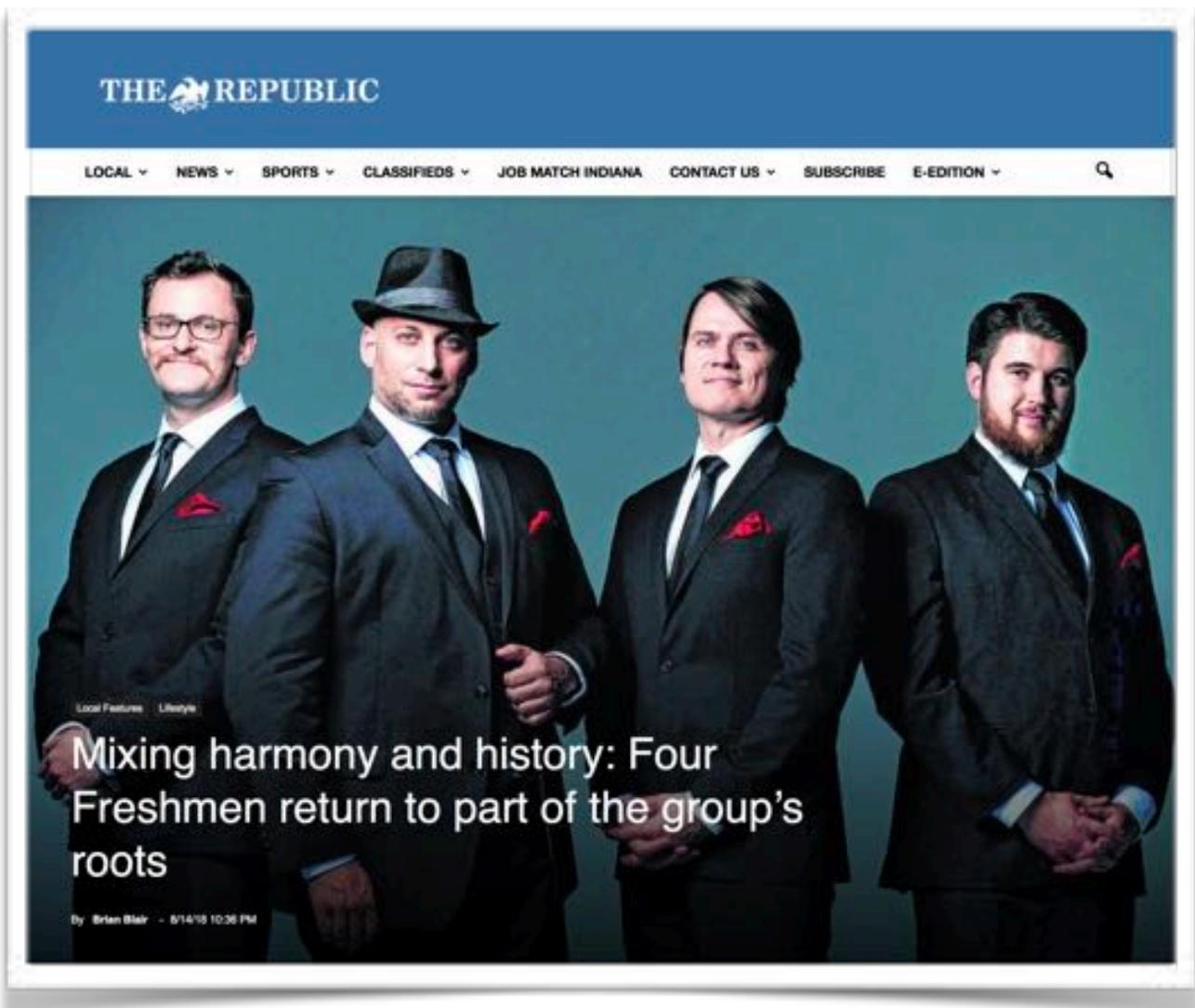
## So, what's next for you?

The Four Freshmen are going to Japan and China in December, and I'm really excited about that! We're playing four nights at the Cotton Club in Tokyo, and then two nights at The Blue Note in Beijing. Japan is an amazing place to play music, and it's a thrill to be heading back. At this point, the Freshmen have kind of played everywhere except China, so that's an exciting first for both me and the band.

Teen Judge is starting work on our second album, and we're hoping our schedules will align for some touring next year. I've been co-writing songs with some different artists; one song, "A Part of Me," was just released by Justin Levinson. I'm in the process of making some substantial upgrades to my recording setup. There are a handful of original songs I'm working up with some really great players and friends, and hope to release in the early part of next year.

Check out Stein's MONO M80 Electric cases [here](#), or see the whole MONO catalog [here](#).





*It* must be something in the air.

Bass vocalist and drummer Bob Ferreira has considered the matter at length. So he swears he's going to take a deep, inhaling breath the minute he gets to Columbus for The Four Freshmen concert Aug. 25 at Judson Erne Auditorium, and probably feel the magic.

**"You have to still wonder sometimes, 'What exactly was it that inspired them to create this sound?'"** Ferreira said.

He spoke by phone from Newport Beach, California. There, Ferreira and his mates, at least the 25th incarnation of the classic, vocal jazz harmony quartet, would perform and still demonstrate that its **signature blend remains as sweet and true as the day the foursome invented it 70 years ago** while students at Butler University.

Brothers and Columbus natives Ross and Don Barbour formed half of the group, along with their cousin Bob Flanigan and friend Hal Kratzsch, all Hoosiers. On Ferreira's last visit to Columbus with the group in 2006, the Freshmen performed the band's first Capitol Records' hit, **"It's a Blue World,"** from 1952 with Ross Barbour, visiting from California (he retired from the group in 1977 and died in 2011).

“That was special,” Ferreira said.

The original group itself was so special it was nominated for six Grammy Awards. **The Beach Boys’ Brian Wilson, lauded by many as something of a musical genius, has said he wore out the grooves of his Four Freshmen LPs trying to imitate the harmony.**

Ferreira mentioned that much of the band’s 90-minute set list will include early material from the original foursome lasting from 1948 to 1952. That seems fitting, since the concert is historic in that it kicks off Columbus North High School’s 150th anniversary celebration, and the Barbours are graduates of Columbus High School, a forerunner of the current institution. Ferreira said many of the tunes haven’t been performed publicly by the group in nearly 65 years.

“These are tunes that these guys arranged simply by ear,” Ferreira said. “And these created the foundation of the sound on all those great Capitol Records recordings. And they did this by just sitting around a guitar.”

Songs at the local concert will include numbers such as “*Ain’t Seen Nothin’ Like You*,” from 1952, and newer releases such as “*Pick Up Your Tears*,” from 2014. Plus, members — trumpet player Jonathan Gaines, guitarist Stein Malvey and lead vocalist and bassist Tommy Boynton — will mix in jazz vocal standards such as “*The Masquerade Is Over*” and “*When I Fall in Love*.”

Ferreira talks about the group’s beginnings with a respect befitting the most senior member of the current group at 26 years and counting.

“It’s so important to be able to absorb this experience,” said Ferreira, 48. “It’s not always an easy lifestyle. But I do this because I absolutely love it.”

**Ross Barbour’s wife, Sue Barbour** of Simi Valley, California, has caught their latest act twice in the past three months. She understands the group as far more than a fan since she filled in as the tenor at some rehearsals in the early days when Flanigan couldn’t make it.

**“I still go see them because I want them to keep their sound alive,” she said. “The group that they have now is very, very energetic and so enthusiastic.”**

Ferreira called her “a wonderful supporter of the group” who often brings more than a dozen family members to shows and attends the group’s annual conventions for the still-popular The Four Freshmen Society.

And what would Ross Barbour think of the latest assemblage of The Four Freshmen? Sue Barbour offered an immediate, wise, senior musical affirmation.

“Oh,” she said, **“he would absolutely love them.”**

## The Freshmen class

Who: Vocal jazz harmony group The Four Freshmen in concert, including the group's older material from nearly 70 years ago mixed with newer recordings and jazz vocal standards.

When: 7:30 p.m. Aug. 25

Where: Columbus North High School's Judson Erne Auditorium, 1400 25th St.

Tickets: \$10 to \$25.

Information and purchasing: The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic at 812-376-2638 or [thecip.org](http://thecip.org).



**Brian Blair**

Brian Blair is a reporter for The Republic. He can be reached at [bblair@therepublic.com](mailto:bblair@therepublic.com) or 812-379-5672.

# CURRENT

CARMEL • FISHERS • GEIST • NOBLESVILLE • WESTFIELD • ZIONSVILLE

## | The Four Freshmen to perform at Federal Hill Commons

BY MARK AMBROGI ON AUGUST 19, 2018

EVENT NEWS



From left, Tommy Boynton, Jonathan Gaines, Bob Ferreira and Stein Malvey at the convention in Dayton, Ohio. (Photo by Ryan Merrill)

Neil Lantz has been president of The Four Freshmen Society for six years. He and his wife, Sara Lou, have been members of the fan club for more than 20 years. "I've been a fan since my high school days back in the late '50s," Lantz said. Naturally, the Fishers resident can't wait to see the quartet play so close to home. The Four Freshmen will perform a free concert at 7 p.m. Aug. 24 at the Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville.

Lantz and his wife will then go see the group play at Columbus North High School.

*"We've been on a cruise with them," Lantz said. "We've been to a dozen of the conventions and they perform at those. We consider them good friends. They're a great bunch of guys."*

The 31st annual Four Freshmen Society convention is Oct. 18 to 20 in South Bend with the group performing the final two nights. This is the 70th anniversary of the group's formation.

Brothers Don and Ross Barbour, Columbus, Ind., their cousin Bob Flanigan, Greencastle, and friend Hal Kratzsch, Warsaw, started the group at Butler University in 1948. Their blended style of harmonizing later inspired The Beach Boys, among others.

The longest-tenured member of the group is Bob Ferreira, who is starting his 26th year.

Ferreira, 48, sings bass vocal parts and plays the drums. He joined The Four Freshman in 1992.

"The last original member and lead singer, Bob Flanigan, who had been with the group 44 1/2 years, was retiring," Ferreira said. "When I joined, he and another member of the group was retiring simultaneously." Flanigan stayed on as manager and owner of the group until he died in 2011.

"He was the biggest cheerleader and believer that the sound could continue," Ferreira said.



Bob Ferreira, left, is presented a 25-year award by Four Freshmen Society President Neil Lantz.

Ferreira was referred to audition by former Four Freshman member Kirk Marcy, who was Ferreira's instructor at Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood, Wash.

"It was surreal to be able to audition for this group," Ferreira said. "I thought I'd maybe try it for a year or two and if I didn't like it, I'd go back to school and get my teaching degree. But I ended up just loving it and I still do. It's not often that people get to do what they truly love to do, so I feel very fortunate."

Ferreira, who lives in Las Vegas, said the group is usually on the road about half the year. Ferreira said the group is always performing new arrangements.

"We always stay within the style of the group, and most of the time we keep it to the timeless standards," he said. "We do songs from the very beginnings in 1948 all the way up to a month ago when we introduced some new arrangements. There's always a core repertoire of hits, like 'Poinciana, 'It's a Blue World' and probably the biggest one, 'Graduation Day.'"

Ferreira said he loves the hard-core fans, like Lantz. "We have fans all over the world, several thousand members in this organization," Ferreria said of the fan club. "They love the sound and celebrate the sound. It's its own only little community."

The conventions are great times to catch up, he said "It's almost like a family reunion," Ferreria said. "I've known half of these people half my life. A lot of these people have become near and dear to me."



## Hear The Close-Knit Harmonies Of The Four Freshmen

By [NATHAN CONE](#) • JUL 20, 2018

### *KSTX-San Antonio Think*

How have The Four Freshmen managed to sound so young all these years? The voices come and go, but that beautiful four-part harmony remains the same.

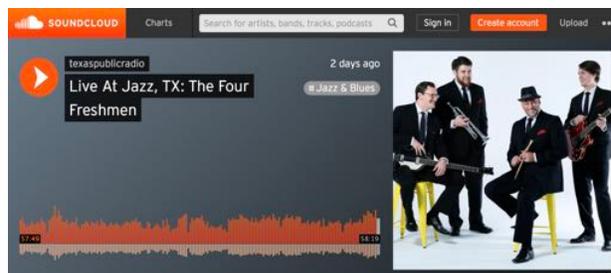
“Well, we always like to use the analogy... it’s more like a sports team. The organization is the same, it’s just the players and the faces have changed throughout the years,” explains Bob Ferreira, the low (or 4th) voice in the group.

The Four Freshmen were founded in 1948, and the last original member of the band, Bob Flanigan, retired from the group in 1992. At that time, over a dozen members had already come and gone as members of The Four Freshmen. Today, the group also includes Tommy Boynton, Stein Malvey, and Jon Gaines.

The members carry on that tradition of vocal harmonizing that went on to influence many other pop and rock music ensembles such as the Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, the Manhattan Transfer and the Beach Boys.

The songs they perform span the 20th century. “Our philosophy is it doesn’t matter whether a song was written in 1928 or 2018. A good song is a good song, and what defines a timeless song is the fact that it can hold up lyrically and musically in any generation,” says Ferreira.

*The Four Freshmen* are the special guests on this edition of "Live at [Jazz, TX](#)." Hear the program Saturday night at 7:00 on Texas Public Radio, or preview the show using the player below.



# Rancho Santa Fe REVIEW

## Another outstanding performance by The Four Freshmen

**DANA WHEATON**

THURSDAY MAY 24, 2018

The Four Freshmen have endured in popularity through the decades, beginning in 1948, and will enjoy their 70th anniversary this fall. Today's members include Bob Ferreira, bass voice on drums, 25 years with the Freshmen; Tommy Boynton, 1st tenor on electric bass, three years; Stein (pronounced STAIN) Malvey, 2nd tenor on guitar, five years; and Jon Gaines, 3rd part on trumpet and flugelhorn, the newest member at one year.



They launched the May 11 RSF Community Concerts event at the Village Church in RSF with the classic "Day In, Day Out," their trademark lush harmonies capped with Tommy's beautiful, "soaring" tenor voice. After Jon's tasteful trumpet solo there was enthusiastic applause. Bob's velvety bass was featured on "Give Me the Simple Life." Gorgeous harmonies ensued on "You Stepped Out of a Dream." Bob, once again, sang solo followed by Jon's plunger mute solo. This song also had the first guitar solo by Stein. The transparent purity of Tommy's tenor was featured on "It Could Happen to You." Jon played a lovely flügelhorn solo.

The Four Freshmen showed off their magnificent a cappella (unaccompanied) harmonies at the end of this one. One of my favorite songs, "Laura" was performed a cappella - hauntingly beautiful. Tommy was featured on the 1955 classic, "Social Call." They sang "Love Is Just Around the Corner" from the successful 1955 album, The Four Freshmen and 5 Trombones. This album reached #6 on the charts and stayed on the charts over eight months. From the same album they did a stunning version of "Angel Eyes" which featured Stein on a lovely guitar solo. Next, from The Four Freshmen and Live Trombones (2010 - available on their website, fourfreshmen.com), "It's All Right with Me," followed with the anti-love song, "Pick Up Your Tears" (And Go Home).

The Four Freshmen were huge fans of Stan Kenton and it was Stan Kenton who helped The Four Freshmen get signed with [Capitol Records](#). They performed "There Will Never Be Another You" to pay tribute to that collaboration. The second half opened with all four members front stage with only two mics. Bob played brushes on a music stand accompanying them on "Ain't Seen Nothin' Like You." This was a real treat, up close, it made their blend even smoother and richer. "Poinciana" triggered big applause, its exoticism was poignant. Next was the trad jazz classic, "Basin Street Blues" with Jon playing with a solo tone mute. Bob said they hadn't performed "Basin Street..." for 65 years.

The 1956 hit "Graduation Day" was next. From the 2015 album Four Freshmen and Friends (also available on their website) was the scintillating "So Danco Samba," where Bob played dual shakers. The crowd was loving the Latin, so they followed with Jobim's immortal, "The Girl from Ipanema," the last half of the song beautifully sung in Portuguese by Bob. The Four Freshmen were commissioned to arrange a song for the 100th birthday celebration of Frank Sinatra, so they swung mightily on "Come Fly with Me." They closed with their 1952 first hit, "It's a Blue World." This garnered such a loud standing ovation, they added "In This Whole Wide World" as an encore. What a fabulous way to end a spectacular season!

— Dana Wheaton, is a Professor of Music at Orange Coast College.

## Community Concerts of Rancho Santa Fe sponsor The Four Freshmen to visit Mira Costa College's jazz students

May 14, 2018

Community Concerts of [Rancho Santa Fe](#) (CCRSF) sponsored an outstanding outreach program to the classical jazz students at Mira Costa College on Friday, May 12, featuring the Four Freshmen. The Freshmen, attired in casual clothing (saving their signature black suits and ties for their evening performance), performed a lively 30-minute concert followed by a 30-minute question and answer period. The students' enthusiasm was apparent from the undivided attention given to the group (no cell phones out unless it was to snap a photo), the tapping of feet, clapping of hands, and, most importantly, by the questions they asked.



The Four Freshmen recently performed for classical jazz students at Mira Costa College.

The Four Freshman shared their knowledge of jazz music and performance with the students and the hour of outreach went by very quickly. The Four Freshmen then performed a spectacular concert that same evening at 7 p.m. in Rancho Santa Fe, but the time with the students was truly special.

The Four Freshmen have entertained audiences for years and are universally recognized as one of the most influential vocal groups of all time. Founded in 1948, The Four Freshman have continued to perform throughout the past seven decades with 25 different band members. Their four-part vocal harmonies inspired many other notable musicians, including The Letterman, The Beach Boys, Frankie Valli, and the Manhattan Transfer, to name a few.

Each season Community Concerts partners with local schools to bring the performers to the students where they get an opportunity to learn from professional artists. The artist outreach is a gift to the community, fully funded by the concert series. Community Concerts is extremely proud to be able to offer this unique experience to the students of North County San Diego and consider it one of the highlights of the concert season.

Community Concerts has already lined up a wonderful season for 2018-2019 and will once again sponsor outreach programs at San Dieguito Academy, Canyon Crest Academy and Mira Costa College. Concert information and short video clips of the artists can be seen at [www.ccrsf.org](http://www.ccrsf.org). Tickets can be purchased on the website or by mail at PO Box 2781, RSF 92067. Questions can be directed to [info@ccrsf.org](mailto:info@ccrsf.org).

# Disclosure Sample Classic Crooners On 'Where Angels Fear To Tread': Listen

8/21/2018 by [Kat Bein](#)



Courtesy of UMG/Interscope  
Disclosure

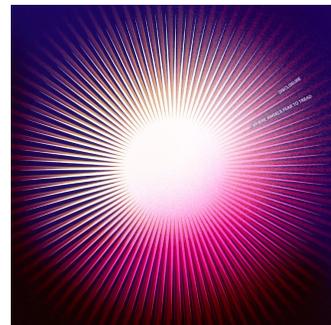
If it's good enough for [Elvis](#) and [Frank Sinatra](#), it's good enough for [Disclosure](#), and by that, we mean the lyrics to the classic crooner groove "Fools Rush In."

The U.K. duo is more debonair than ever on its latest single "Where Angels Fear To Tread," a beautiful, heart-melting melody that pits the romantic notion against a steady house beat.

"We've been completely obsessed with acapella jazz groups lately," the duo tweeted on Aug. 21, "and so we decided to sample some of the **original masters - The Four Freshmen**. Hope you all enjoy."

"Where Angels Fear To Tread" comes just a day after Disclosure's "Moonlight," another futuristic vibe that seeks inspiration from the past. There is yet no official news of an album or tour, but it definitely seems the Lawrence brothers are up to something. Both singles follow Disclosure's silence-breaking "Ultimatum," featuring Malian singer Fatoumata Diawara.

There's something truly soft and sweet about this one. Get misty-eyed with "Where Angels Fear To Tread" below.



## Four Freshmen return to Munster after more than a decade

**Jessi Virtusio**

Post-Tribune

September 14 2017

When Bob Ferreira was pursuing his music education degree in 1992 at Central Washington University in Washington, he was offered a position in a legendary vocal group.

He took it and is still singing the bass vocal part and playing drums for the Four Freshmen, who perform Sept. 22 for Lakeshore Community Concerts at Munster High School Auditorium.

"I was recommended by one of my teachers. The next thing I knew I said, 'I could try it for a year or two.' It's been 25 years now," said Ferreira, of Las Vegas.

Recommended by former Four Freshmen member Kirk Marcy, Ferreira is now the senior member in the group, which includes Tommy Boynton singing lead and playing bass, Stein Malvey singing the second part and playing guitar and Jon Gaines singing the third part and playing trumpet.

"We all love vocal music. There's a collective passion in this group that I have seldom experienced in my years. I am so excited where this current group is going. I believe we are sounding the best the group has sounded since the originals," said Ferreira.

The Four Freshmen began in 1948, have recorded more than 75 albums and 70 top-selling singles, and received six Grammy Award nominations.

Their sound has inspired musical artists including the Mamas & the Papas, the Manhattan Transfer and Frankie Valli.

"This group is one of the most inspirational vocal group sounds around," said Ferreira about the Four Freshmen.

"This month we'll be celebrating 69 years the group has been working nonstop. This group not only celebrates the music of its past and the hits that made the group famous but we still do brand-new arrangements. We still make new recordings. We still move ahead with what we do.

"The Beach Boys got their sound from the Four Freshmen. Just that one correlation is enough to really understand the impact that this sound has had."

Ferreira said the Four Freshmen last performed in Munster in September 2006.

This time the jazz vocal group pays tribute to classic favorites such as "Day By Day" and "It's a Blue World," performs new arrangements of "Come Fly with Me" and "I Ain't Got Nobody" and gets the crowd moving with songs including "The Girl from Ipanema" and "(Get Your Kicks on) Route 66."

"We brought back some of the very original songs that haven't been performed in over 60 years. We're bringing back some of the grassroots Freshmen arrangements all the way up to some brand-new stuff that we've introduced just in recent weeks," said Ferreira.

"The guys are very talented musicians. We absolutely love what we do so we have a lot of fun. We always encourage the audience to kick back, relax and enjoy it with us. If they're having even half as much fun as we are, then they're going to have a great time."

Jessi Virtusio is a freelance reporter for the Post-Tribune.



Lakeshore Community Concerts presents the Four Freshmen Sept. 22 at Munster High School Auditorium.

## Vocal group Four Freshmen to bring big band sound and jazz harmonies to Amp

by RYAN PAIT on AUGUST 8, 2017 • ADD COMMENT • 106 VIEWS

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A good song is a good song.

“I think anyone can agree on that,” Bob Ferreira said. “If it’s lyrically relevant and it catches you melodically, it doesn’t matter if it was written in 1923 or 2017.”

Ferreira is a member of the Four Freshmen, the vocal quartet that will perform at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday in the Amphitheater, in a concert sponsored in part by Donna and Stewart Kohl.

Ferreira said that he and his bandmates are going to give the audience at Chautauqua everything they can — music from the Four Freshmen’s earliest days, as well as some brand new material.

“We’re bringing back some of the old stuff,” Ferreira said. “And we’re going to be doing some brand new stuff, too: recent recordings and some of our brand-new arrangements. We’re going to run the gamut of the whole 69-year career of this group.”

The vocal group was founded in 1948 and has continued to perform and tour since then, with members changing over the decades. Built on big band sound and jazz harmonies, Ferreira said the Freshmen work from the Great American Songbook while introducing new sounds.

“That’s the beauty of it,” Ferreira said. “We still maintain the Freshmen sound and tradition, but we still bring new songs and new arrangements and new albums. It’s wonderful to be able to do that.”

Ferreira joined the Freshmen in 1992 when the group was looking for replacements. His teacher, Kirk Marcy — then a member of the Freshmen — recommended Ferreira.

“He recommended me, I auditioned, and the next thing you know, I was moving to Las Vegas,” Ferreira said. “I would always joke and say I was going to try it out for a year or two, and if the road didn’t suit me, I’d go back to school and finish my teaching degree. And Aug. 1, just a few days ago, marked 25 years I’ve been with the group.”

The other members of the current iteration of the Freshmen include Stein Malvey, Tommy Boynton and Jonathan Gaines, who joined in 2013, 2015 and 2017, respectively. While Ferreira has seniority in the group, he said their performances are always a partnership — everyone works together and gets a moment to shine.

Ferreira said he loves working with bandmates who are committed to their talents and making their music sound great.

“Just being able to trust in others doing their jobs and making their music the way it should be is probably one of the biggest parts of being a successful leader,” Ferreira said. “At least, that’s what I hope — and I’m finding it to be true. I couldn’t be happier with the sound of this group right now and the effort that these guys are putting in.”

That sound is a nostalgic one — one that harkens back to the Freshmen’s 1940s roots. Ferreira said it’s a type of music that evokes memories, and that’s what he’s come to appreciate the most in his time touring and performing with the Freshmen.

“We’ll sing a song, and I’ll see a guy kind of perk his ears up and put his arm around his lady right next to him, like, ‘Yeah, remember this song?’” Ferreira said. “I love those moments. Those are the kinds of things over the years that I’ve grown to appreciate more and more. That’s the impact that this music has.”

Ferreira said it’s easy to take music for granted sometimes, but the connection it has with memory is important. And it’s central to what he hopes the Four Freshmen do with their performances.

“We’re bringing back memories,” Ferreira said. “That’s a responsibility in itself. So I love that — being able to do that and then hearing people’s stories after the show about what this music means to them.”

Ferreira said whether the audience at Chautauqua is familiar with the Freshmen or not, he hopes they leave the concert feeling like they had a good time.

“If they walk away with a smile on their face, if we brought back some memories and maybe created some new ones, that’s all I could hope for,” Ferreira said. “I just want everyone to have a good time, because we have a great time onstage. We’re having a blast, and we hope everyone wants to join in on it.”

01/01/16

## Four Freshmen & Friends Newport Beach Jazz Party

Four Freshmen

By Christopher Loudon

At this point in their history, two years past the group's 65th anniversary, the Four Freshmen have churned through enough members to fill an entire graduating class. The last of the four founders, Bob Flanigan, departed in 1993, less than a year after **Bob Ferreira** joined. Ferreira has since remained the outfit's anchor. His current mates include **Stein Malvey**, **Curtis Calderon** and the freshest recruit, **Tommy Boynton**, who signed on just prior to this live recording from February at California's annual Newport Beach Jazz Party.

Perhaps Boynton is the foursome's lucky charm. In recent years, Freshmen output has been consistently good, though decidedly lackluster in comparison to the original quartet. **This new lineup sounds closest to the landmark sound—tight, smooth, bracing—that, back in the early '50s, set the standard for all future vocal harmony jazz groups, not to mention the deeply indebted Beach Boys.**

Together with the titular friends—reedman **Ken Peplowski**, vibraphonist **Chuck Redd**, guitarist **Ron Escheté**, bassist **Katie Thiroux** and drummer **Butch Miles**—they stick to such standard Freshmen fare as “Avalon,” “Moonglow” and “Don't Be That Way,” reaching all the way back to “It's a Blue World,” the group's debut hit from 1952. The one exception is a twilit, *a cappella* rendering of Coltrane's “Central Park West.” (Too bad they didn't opt for the gorgeous if unauthorized lyric José James has crafted.) Though crowd-pleasingly predictable, **this 40-minute set is easily the best Freshmen release since Ferreira's arrival.**

Originally published in December 2015  
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