



Another Great Day with The Freshmen

As you might know,, the month of May was another big one for those of us who live, work, and play in the Indianapolis area. Following the usual weeks of preparation and practice by the auto racing teams at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the exciting days of time trials, and a huge festival parade through the downtown streets, the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500 was celebrated by a record setting crowd of over 350,000 people in person and worldwide television coverage on May 29th.

However, the highlight of my month came just a week before the big race when the Freshmen appeared at the Warren Center for Performing Arts in Indy. What a great concert it was! If I may borrow a commonly heard compliment from the world of sport, the guys were "on top of their game!" Their presentation of the legendary Freshmen sound was heartily welcomed by a large and most appreciative audience; and their play list was a tasteful mix of the traditional Freshmen favorites along with several newer charts which demonstrated the arranging talents of the current guys.

A special treat was enjoyed when the Freshmen came to the front edge of the stage and presented several numbers without using amplification. Curtis and Bob commented several times about the outstanding acoustics of the Warren facility, and Group #24's selections demonstrated those qualities along with their ability to maintain and project the Freshmen sound without microphones. Sara Lou and I were seated at the very back of the concert hall to facilitate our quick access to the CD table at the intermission and at the conclusion of the concert, but the guy's presentation came through beautifully without any apparent strain or disharmony. Many of their acapella selections were tastefully arranged by Curtis, including Stompin' At the Savoy, So Danco Samba, Girl From Ipanema, and A Little While.

Not surprising, while at the CD table in the lobby, we heard countless raves about the concert. As usual, CD sales were brisk, inquiries about the Society and the 2016 FFS Convention were several, and Group #24 stayed to sign autographs until the last fan departed. Indeed, May 22 marked another great day for those of us who continue to enjoy and appreciate the sixth uninterrupted decade of that wonderful Four Freshmen sound. We look forward to seeing the guys again in Louisville in August at the 2016 Convention and hope you'll be there.

The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

Check the Website: fourfreshmensociety.com or fourfreshmen.com for updates For bookings: International Ventures Incorporated

Dale Sheets & Dina Sheets-Roth 25115 Avenue Stanford, Suite A-102, Valencia, CA 91355 Phone: 661-259-4500 FAX: 661-259-1310

Email: info@ivimanagement.com Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

July 20-23, 2016

Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

The Dirty Dog Café, 97 Kercheval Ave. Showtimes: 6:00p and 8:30p Tickets: 313-882-5299

July 27, 2016

Newport Beach, CA

Sunset Jazz at Newport, Rose Garden, 900 Newport Center Dr. Showtimes: 6:00p and 7:30p Tickets: 949-659-5003

August 25-27, 2016

Louisville, KY

Columbus, OH

Four Freshmen Society Convention & Reunion FFS Members Only!

September 7, 2016

Villa Milano Ballroom, 1630 Schrock Rd. Lunch & Show: 12:30p Tickets: 440-943-5480

September 8, 2016

North Royalton, OH

Carrie Cerino's Ballroom, 8922 Ridge Rd. Show times: 12:00p, 1:30p, 6:30p and 8:00p Tickets: 800-482-3531

September 9, 2016

Eastlake, OH Croatian Lodge Ballroom, 34900 Lake Shore Blvd. Show times: 12:00p, 1:30P, 6:30p and 8:00p Tickets: 800-482-3531

September 10, 2016 Indianapolis, IN

The Jazz Kitchen, 5377 N. College Ave. Show times: 6:30p and 8:30p Tickets: 317-253-4900

September 11, 2016

Cincinnati, OH

Xavier University, Gallagher Student Center Theatre 3800 Victory Parkway Show times: 3:00p Tickets: 513-745-3161

Jefferson City, MO

September 17, 2016 Miller Performing Arts Center, 501 Madison St. Show time: TBA Tickets: 573-681-9371

September 24, 2016 Cheboygan, WI The Opera House, 403 N. Huron St. Show time: TBA

Los Angeles, CA

November 5, 2016 Los Angeles Jazz Institute Jazz Party, 6101 West Century Blvd. Show time: TBA Tickets: 562-200-5477

November 12, 2016 Fort Meyers, FL Shell Point Concert Series, 15101 Shell Point Blvd. Show time: 7:30p Tickets: 239-454-2067

November 16, 2016 Largo, FL Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Dr. Show time: 7:30p Tickets: 727-587-6793

November 19, 2016

Hampton, VA The American Theatre, 125 East Mellen St. Show time: 8:00p Tickets: 757-722-2787

Tickets: 231-627-5841



CONVENTION 2016 IS COMING SOON!!! AUGUST 25 - 27, 2016

Congratulations to all of you who have registered for the Society's 29th annual convention to be held at the beautiful Galt house Hotel in Louisville, KY. AND TO THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE NOT YET SIGNED UP, THERE'S STILL TIME. Registration instructions and the Convention schedule follow in this issue. If you are flying in BE SURE TO MAKE YOUR AIRPORT SHUTTLE RESERVATION WITH SANDOLLAR PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL. SEE CONVENTION REGISTRATION INFORMATION PAGE FOR DETAILS.

<u>THURSDAY</u>: Festivities get underway with the first of the three days of <u>Wannabees</u> sing-a-long sessions. Thursday evening will offer the always popular <u>Musical Jam Session</u> featuring many of the talented members of the Society.

<u>FRIDAY</u>: <u>TOUR AND DERBY DAY!</u> There are 2 tours available to you, but they are filling up fast. Unfortunately, timing does not allow for participation in both tours. One is the exclusive <u>Backstretch Breakfast Tour of Churchill</u> <u>Downs</u>, home of the world famous Kentucky Derby. An alternate outing is the <u>Belle of Louisville Luncheon Cruise</u> on the Ohio River. The Belle of Louisville is a 102 year-old paddlewheel steamboat.

HATITUDE will be Friday afternoon from 2 to 4 pm. This is an opportunity for ladies and gentlemen to design their own one-of-a-kind hat to wear for the Derby Night Dinner that evening. All hats, ribbons, feathers, fanfare, and

assistance are included in the fee for this unique activity. Those on the Belle of Louisville tour return at 2:00 pm, so there is plenty of time to make your creation. This is an extremely popular activity with all events held in Louisville! And you will have something special to wear with your outfit for Friday's Derby Night Dinner. Be sure to include this on your registration form. If you have already registered and not signed up for this one, you still can. Just send a check made out to FFS CONVENTION 2016 for \$25 per person to Sara Lou and Neil Lantz, 10911 Innisbrooke Ln., Fishers, IN 46037.



The traditional <u>Meet and Greet</u> reception with cash bar will precede Friday's <u>Derby Night Dinner</u>. Of course, the day would not be complete without a great concert by the wonderful <u>Four Freshmen</u>.

<u>SATURDAY</u> begins with the annual <u>General Meeting</u>, including Society and and Freshmen updates, reports, introductions, and announcements about the 2017 Convention. Come back at 1:00 pm for the popular Fresh Memories to hear



MUSEUM

road stories from former Freshmen, wives of former Freshmen, and the current guys (subject to their rehearsal schedule). Another <u>Meet and Greet</u> with cash bar begins the festivities Saturday evening. Following dinner, the concert opening act will feature the <u>Kentuckiana All-Star Big Band</u>, performing traditional big band selections including several from the Stan Kenton era. We then welcome back our favorite jazz vocal group, the <u>Four Freshmen</u> - Bob, Curtis, Stein, and Tommy!

The beautiful city of Louisville has much to offer in addition to our FFS Convention activities. Within walking distance of the Galt House are many museums, restaurants, and shops. The FREE Zero Bus runs along Main and Market Streets and another along 4th Street. You will find attractions such as the Louisville Slugger Bat Company, The Muhammad Ali Center, Kentucky Science Center, and more - even an underground zip line! We hope you come early for the Convention and stay late in order to take advantage of all Louisville has to offer.

We welcome you and look forward to seeing you August 25 - 27!

Sara Lou and Neil Lantz 2016 Convention Co-Chairs



Remember to order your shirts

FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY

2016 CONVENTION REGISTRATION INFORMATION

(Please read carefully before completing Registration Form) YOU WILL FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THESE ITEMS WITHIN THIS ISSUE OF FRESH NEWS

<u>REGISTRATION</u>: Registration begins on February 1, 2016. You may register by mail and pay by check or credit card using the Registration Form in this newsletter or online at <u>www.ffs2016</u> Please provide all requested information, including first <u>and</u> last names.

<u>TABLE ASSIGNMENTS</u>: Dinner seating will be at tables of eight (8). Location will be made based on the postmark date or online registration date on or after 2-1-16 of the <u>last</u> member in your party. We encourage you to send them all at the same time. To ensure that you will receive assigned seating with others you want at your table, please provide all names.

<u>HOTEL INFORMATION</u>: We recommend you make your hotel reservation early. Rooms at the Galt House Hotel will be reserved on a first-come, first served basis. Rates for the convention are guaranteed at \$115 plus tax per night in the Revue Tower for a deluxe guestroom with two queen beds or one king bed. Executive suites in the Suite Tower are available for \$135 plus tax per night. (One-bedroom waterfront balcony suites in the Revue Tower are available at \$195 plus tax per night). These rates will also be available for three days before and three days after the official convention dates of August 25 - 27, as long as rooms are available. FREE WIFI. ******TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM, call THE GALT HOUSE directly at 1-800-THE GALT (1-800-843-4258). Select option 2 which is reservations. You must mention that you are with the Four Freshmen Society to get the group rate. You may also make your reservation on line at https://resweb.passkey.com/go/ffs0823 It will take you directly to the reservation page for the group.

<u>SHIRTS</u>: The 2016 commemorative shirts in both women's (v-neck) and men's (golf shirt) collared styles are royal blue with the 2016 convention logo designed by Dan de la Torre. They are silk touch 65/35 poly/cotton blend and very true to size. Only a few shirts will be available at the convention, so you are encouraged to order with your registration.

<u>TOURS</u>: The <u>Churchill Downs Tour</u> includes breakfast at the backstretch Kitchen where you will be able to watch the horses' morning workout. Following breakfast, the coaches will take us for a quick trip to the frontstretch and the Kentucky Derby Museum. This tour is wheelchair accessible. Cost for the Churchill Downs Tour is \$58. See additional information in this issue.

The <u>Belle of Louisville River Cruise</u> on the Ohio River includes lunch. Boarding begins at 11:30 am for a noon departure. If you may need extra time to board, it is suggested that you arrive at 11:15. Cost for the Belle of Louisville River Cruise with lunch is \$35.

PLEASE NOTE: It is not possible to take both tours as coaches from Churchill Downs do not return in time to board the Belle.

HATITUDE: Hatitude is a new session at this year's convention on Friday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Galt House. In recognition of the 142nd year of the Kentucky Derby, convention ladies and gentlemen are invited to Hatitude. Hats and decorations will be provided along with assistance for you to design your own Derby Hat to wear to the Friday evening dinner which will be Derby Night! Cost for Hatitude is \$25.

MENU SELECTION: Please specify if you require vegetarian dinners.

<u>JAM SESSION</u>: Thursday night's Music Jam Session promises to be another great evening, and Society members are encouraged to participate. While a talented local trio will anchor the session, past and current Freshmen and Society members are welcomed. Please indicate your song, key, and instrument on the registration form so the trio will be prepared to back up your selection. Time is limited, so only music participation will be accepted.

<u>REGISTRATION FEES</u>: Early registration (\$195) on or before June 1 is encouraged and must be accompanied by payment. After June 1, every effort will be made to accommodate late registrations (\$215), but priority dinner seating and tour reservations cannot be guaranteed. Please complete all information on the Registration Form and forward it with your payment. While checks are preferred, you may charge your fees using Visa or MasterCard only. The 3-digit CVCC security number on the back of the card must be included. ONLY MEMBERS OF THE FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY MAY ATTEND THIS CONVENTION. Non-members will be allowed to join for a special fee of only \$10 (single or couple - please indicate) if submitted with a convention registration. We encourage you to duplicate the registration form and this information section for your non-member friends who may be interested.

HOTEL PARKING: Parking is \$5 per day with in and out privileges.

<u>AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION</u>: Sandollar will provide airport shuttle service to the hotel and return (round trip) for \$22 per person. <u>You must make a reservation for your seat on the shuttle prior to airport arrival</u>. Go to <u>www.sandollarlimo.com</u> When you get to the "additional comments" box on the reservation form, please enter "FFS" to receive the discounted price and pay the \$22 per person on the form. When returning to the airport, go to the Transportation Counter in the Galt House to confirm your return shuttle seat and receive a time from them. You may also call (502) 561-4022 and give the "FFS" code to the shuttle reservation people to receive the special price. ***SHUTTLE RESERVATIONS MAY NOT BE MADE BEFORE MAY 25, 2016 - 90 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF ARRIVAL.*** Taxi service is also available at the airport for approximately \$20 one way.

<u>SILENT AUCTION</u>: As in previous years, there will be a Silent Auction in the 113 CLUB. If you have Four Freshmen memorabilia, musical items, or other items you think would be worthwhile for the Auction, please contact: Jean and Bud Mendenhall at (260) 426-986 or email them at <u>bjmend013@comcast.net</u>

Be sure to read registration Information details in this issue before filling out this form.

	Send for	m to: Neil & Sara Lou Lantz
Louisville, Kentucky August 25 – 27, 2016 Flying in?	Driving in?	_ 10911 Innisbrooke Lane Fishers, IN 46037
PLEASE PRINT		Question? 317-849-7443
Name(s)		
(First Name) (Last Name) Address	(First Name)	(Last Name)
	Telephone # ()
City, State, Zip		/
COMMEMORATIVE SHIRT: \$34 EACH. (Add \$3 ea. for sizes XX		
(Enter NUMBER of shirts wanted by size and gender) Men (small) (med) (large) (XL) (XXL) (XXXL) (-	XXXL) (XXXXXXL)
Women(small) (med) (large) (XL) (XXL) (XXL)	(XXXL) (XXX	KXL) (XXXXXL) (XXXXXXL)
JAM SESSION: Plan to perform at Thursday night Musical Jam Sess Since this will be a Musical Jam Session and time is limited, we will need		
Song:	Key:	Instrument
MENU SELECTIONS: Do you need vegetarian meals? How many	Friday	Saturday
HOTEL INFORMATION: Have you made your Galt House Hotel Re Rates are \$115/night for Deluxe Guest Room (Rivue Tower) or \$135/n Rates available for 3 days before and/or 3 days after convention at th Parking is \$5/day with in and out privileges. (See Registration Inf REGISTRATION FEE: POSTMARKED (or online) FEBRUARY 1 to POSTMARKED (or online) AFTER JUNE 1,	night for limited numbe e same FFS rate if roor formation in this issue <u>JUNE 1, 2016</u> - \$195	er of Executive Suites (Suite Tower) ms available. e for hotel reservation procedure. ; per person.
Cancellations - Cancellations with full refund before June 1, 2016. Can	cellations from June 1	to July 15 will have a \$25 processing
fee. NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 15, 2016. TABLE SEATING: Tables of eight. List names of those you want at y POSTMARKED DATE or ONLINE DATE OF LAST MEMBER OF YOUR	our table. <u>SEATING I</u>	
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BREAKING NEWS.....

2016 FFS CONVENTION Friday, August 26 will be <u>DERBY DAY</u>!

Wear your Derby finery for dinner and concert. Then enjoy the PHOTO OP

with Group #24 following. The 8"x10" photos will be \$20. Pick up your order at Saturday's dinner. Your photo will make a great Christmas or greeting card.

HATITUDE is still available (\$25) Friday afternoon if you want to make your hat for the evening.

You may guarantee your spot for the PHOTO OP by getting your name on the list ahead of time and/or adding HATITUDE to your registration by contacting us ASAP. Sara Lou & Neil Lantz nlantz@talktotucker.com or saraloulantz@hotmail.com

317.849.7443

2016 FFS Convention Schedule

Louisville, Kentucky

as of 11/14/2015

Thursday, August 25

- 8:00am-4:00pm Registration
- 9:00am-4:00pm 113 Club
- 2:30pm-4:00pm Wannabees
- 3:00pm-4:30pm FFS Board of Directors Meeting
- 5:00pm-6:30pm FF Music Foundation Reception

7:00pm-10:30pm .. Jam Session

Friday, August 26

7:30am-noon Churchill Downs Tour with breakfast
9:00am-4:00pm Registration
9:00am-4:00pm 113 Club
11:30am-2:00pm Belle of Louisville River Cruise with lunch
2:00pm-4:00pm Hatitude
2:30pm-4:00pm Hatitude
5:30pm-6:30pm Meet and Greet
6:30pm-11:00pm ... Dinner and Concert Afterglow Photo Ops

Saturday, August 27

9:00am-noon Registration 9:00am-4:00pm 113 Club 9:00am-10:00am .. State Reps Meeting 10:00am-11:00am General Meeting 1:00pm-2:15pm Fresh Memories 2:30pm-4:00pm Wannabees 5:30pm-6:30pm Meet and Greet 6:30pm-11:00pm ... Dinner and Concert

Quiz

Submitted by Sue Barbour's Daughter Kathy Feese and Grand-Daughter Natalie Bruso

- 1. How many years was Bob Flanigan a member of the Four Freshmen (for a few months in 1990 Greg Stegman sang the high part in Bob's stead but Bob was still a member)?
- 2. What famous comedian got his performing debut when performing with the Four Freshmen?
- 3. Who wrote the arrangement of *We'll Be Together Again* for the Freshmen? They had been waiting for him to write them an arrangement and when they met in a restaurant he jotted it down on a placemat.
- 4. What is the new guy's last name?
- 5. What group number is the current group?
- 6. Which Freshmen married a popular movie star?
- 7. And what was her name?
- 8. The Four Freshmen have been nominated for the Grammy Awards several times. In what year was their first nomination?
- 9. Who collaborated with Bill Comstock in writing the poignant song *Summer Has Gone* (on the album In Person 2)?
- 10. What significant event in Freshmen history occurred on Sept 7, 1952?
- 11. How many Freshmen have their been?
- 12. Which Freshmen arranged the beautiful song *Sky Lark* written by Johnny Mercer?
- 13. Approximately how many people attended the 20th annual FFS Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana?
- 14. Name a female singer who toured with the Four Freshmen.
- 15. Which of the following vocal artist was not a Freshmen?
 A] Dave Jennings
 B] Newton Graber
 C] Bruce Belland
 D] Alan MacIntosh
 D] Dennis Grillo
- 16. In what year did Edd Townsend form the Four Freshmen Appreciation Society?
- 17. What attractive female singer recorded a song dedicated to the Four Freshmen?
- 18. Which Freshmen's last name is Malvey?
- 19. Which three Freshmen were all married to "Nancy"?
- 20. Which Four Freshmen album was nominated for a Grammy Award in 1958?
- 21. On what occasion did the Four Freshmen sing with Jane Powell?
- 22. Which famous comedian, who later had a TV show that shared his name, performed with the Four Freshmen in his early years?
- 23. Which Four Freshmen were depicted on the Mt. Freshmore album cover?

First part of the quiz. The second part will follow in the next newsletter.

The Four Freshmen In Person Bob Newhart Ray Brown, Ken Albers, Bob Flanigan and Bob Flanigan and Ross Barbour.	(Four Preps) Oct. 1987 Julie London (the song is titled simply Zhe Freshmen) Stein Stein	. The Four Freshmen signed their 16. with Capitol Records 27 . Brian Eichenberger 18.	longest member 10 Richard Prior Billy May 24 11. 24 11. 12. 13. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14. 14	2. 3. 5. 6. 7.
The Four Freshmen			44 years and the 9.	۱.

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Corporate Board of Directors

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General Information

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Fresh News is published quarterly © 2016, all rights reserved, celebrating THE FOUR FRESHMEN, the best vocal/instrumental quartet in the world. Publication does not imply approval of FFS corporate directors or trustees. Each author is responsible for his/her article. Deadlines for consideration of articles:

1. Jan/Feb/March - Dec 15 2. Apr/May/June - March 15 3. July/Aug/Sept - June 15 Submit manuscripts to the Editor: Barb Meyers, <u>bam241136@gmail.com</u>, Cell 419-309-7855

4. Oct/Nov/Dec - Sept 15

FFS New Member/or Renewal Form

Name	

Spouse

Address

(9 digit zip please)

Telephone #

Fax #

E-mail

New Member Fee: \$32 Single or Couple (worldwide) All Renewals: One Year \$22 Two or more years \$17 each year FFS dues are not tax deductible.

Or online at www.fourfreshmensociety.com/dues

New Members

David Ayers

Fred & Joyce Bauer, Wooster, OH LeeAnn Brockner, Milwaukee, WI Wayne Brown, Nashville, TN Dave Camp, Palos Verdes, CA William Dumermuth, Bolivar, OH Sherry Ederheimer, Louisville, KY Lauren & Ben Kloke. Greenwood, IN

Donna Leader, Evansville, IN Ron & Connie McClean, Elizabethtown, KY John Parente, Indianapolis, IN Michelle & Garland Taylor, Chicago, IL Robert & Patricia Weiford, Winfield, WV

Contributors

Tony Leone, Washington, PA



Item	Cost	QTY Tota	I		
5 Saxes/5 Guitars	\$ 15.00		1		
5 Trombones/5Trumpets	\$ 15.00		Please use "Re	eturn Addro	ess" label when available - Thanks
50 Years Fresh	\$ 15.00		1		
Capital Collector	\$ 15.00		1		
Culmination - Greg Stegemann (*)	\$ 15.00		Name:		
Faux Freshmen - Scratchin' the Surface	\$ 10.00				
Faux Freshmen - Season of the Heart	\$ 10.00		Street:		
Faux Freshmen - Unsung	\$ 15.00				
Four Freshmen and Friends	\$ 15.00		City. State:		
Fresh	\$ 15.00				
Freshmas	\$ 15.00		Zip Code:		
Freshmen Year/Voices in Latin	\$ 15.00				_
Golden Anniversary	\$ 15.00		Phone Number	r: ()	<u>.</u>
Graduation Day	\$ 15.00		-		
Graduation Day - Double CD	\$ 15.00		Email:		
In Session	\$ 15.00				
Jazz Factory	\$ 15.00		Name on Card	:	
Ken Albers Arrangements	\$ 28.00		1		
Live at Butler	\$ 15.00		Visa MC	AMEX	Disc
Live at Clearwater	\$ 15.00				
Live at Penn State (*)	\$ 15.00		1		
Live at the Franklin Theatre	\$ 15.00		cc #:	-	
Live from Vegas CD	\$ 15.00				
Live from Vegas DVD	\$ 15.00		Expiration Date	e: /	
Live from Vegas (DVD & CD)	\$ 25.00				
Live in Holland	\$ 15.00		1		
Live in the New Millenium	\$ 15.00		CVV # (On Bac	:k)	
Live Trombones	\$ 15.00				
Lost Soul - Curtis Calderon	\$ 15.00		- Г	Please Co	mplete: then
Love Songs	\$ 15.00				: FFS Music Mart
More 5 Trombones/In Person Vol. 2	\$ 15.00		-) mun to	Barbara Emerson, Director
"Now You Know" (Book)	\$ 100.00		1		74 Doncaster Lane
"Now You Know" (Book - Overseas Order)	\$ 120.00		1		Bluffton, SC 29909
Remembering Ken (*)	\$ 15.00		1		Diamon, SC 2000
Return to Romance/Live in Manchester (*)	\$ 15.00			or	
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Total (*) Available to Members Only			-	60 arrang The blue l arrangem We aren't concerns. a \$20 ship	n. The white book is complete and has ements (we have about 20 copies). book is only volume one and has 36 ents (we only have 3 of these). actually selling them due to copyright . They are available for FREE but there's oping and handling charge for the white \$15 for the blue book.



Are You Coming to the Party!

2016 Four Freshmen Music Foundation Gala Reception Will Be One to Remember

Invitations are being mailed for the first-ever Four Freshmen Music Foundation's Gala Reception, Thursday, August 25, 2016, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., at the Galt House in Louisville.

Longtime FFS members Jack and Mary Morrison will be honored guests at the eventelped the FFMF ate shmen Music Foundation a "thank you" for their generous contribution that helped the FFMF

get up and running. Dr. Sally Childs-Helton, associate professor, Special Collections, Rare Books, and University Archives Librarian at Butler University, will be featured. A very special cameo appearance by the Four Freshmen will round out the evening's celebration. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be provided.

If you plan to attend the Gala Reception, *please* **RSVP!** Notify FFMF Treasurer Dave Bentley, dbentley@optonline.net, or (203)972-1916.

A close estimation of expected numbers of attendees is required.

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JOHN BANGS: FFS LEGEND REMEMBERED

(Note: author Wayne Corey and FFS Wisconsin state representative Michael McCoy were signed up as FFAS members at the same concert in Madison in 1991. Wayne & Mike represented the Four Freshmen Society at the memorial luncheon for John in May.)

John Bangs touched our lives. John was president of the Four Freshmen Society –then called the Four Freshmen Appreciation Society -- from 1990-through 1996. He took charge of a struggling fan club shortly after its founding. He ran the Music Mart from its inception until 2002. But there is much more to the story.

John passed away April 26th at age 87. Even in death John Bangs continues to have a significant impact on the lives of every Four Freshmen fan. John helped found the FFS because he believed preserving the Four Freshmen was important. He knew that the Freshmen have a unique sound with a core group of strong fans. He was determined to expand that base. He succeeded. Former FFS president Dick Baldwin said it perfectly: "John took it seriously and made us all pay attention."

Yas Ichiura, FFS Japan representative, met him in the early days and recognized John's role in keeping both the society and the Freshmen alive. "The FF couldn't have survived without his passion and effort to support the group. He was such a nice and generous person," Yas said.

Everyone reading this loves the Four Freshmen. The Four Freshmen Society lives, the Four Freshmen are still singing, most of us own lots of Four Freshmen CDs and many of us have made enduring friendships. Much of this is because of John Bangs, the lovable crew-cut curmudgeon from Oshkosh, Wisconsin who kept the society alive. Leading likeminded Freshmen lovers, John nursed the FFS to robust health.

Freshman Bob Ferreira met John when Bob joined the group in 1992. "John worked tirelessly to make the FFS what it is today. His gruff, no-nonsense demeanor was as endearing as his passion for the Freshmen sound." Added FFS historian Christian Rank, "He was very instrumental in making the FFS the world class organization that it is today."



John Bangs, FFS president 1990-1996

John Bangs WAS the FFS Music Mart for many years. And the Music Mart, together with memberships, financed the society and its growth. A fortunate few got to visit the physical presence of the Music Mart in John's basement. Yas Ichiura was there in 1992. Yas visited John in Oshkosh before riding to the Columbus, Ohio convention with John & Doloros. "It was so interesting to see various materials of The Four Freshmen, besides hundreds of beer cans from all over the world around the wall," Yas said. Stacks of Four Freshmen CDs and cassettes were surrounded by John's massive collection of beer cans. Yes, two of John's passions were on display in one room.

John chaired five of the first dozen conventions held by the society. Three of those gatherings – 1991, 1994 & 1999 – were held in John's hometown, Oshkosh. The conventions weren't held in Oshkosh because the modest Wisconsin city is an entertainment and hospitality mecca. It

isn't. The conventions were held in Oshkosh because John Bangs lived there and, by golly, if no one else would host a convention John and Oshkosh would provide a hearty welcome for us. So we had three conventions in Oshkosh and we had wonderful times. In 1991 attendees even got to celebrate the 40th wedding anniversary of John & Doloros.

Telling John Bangs stories can't begin to capture his personality and the passion for the Freshmen that saw him help save the society and then lead its growth. John's obituary included a favorite quote: "I spent most of my life hunting & drinking beer. The rest of the time I wasted." Well, not all of it. John spent an immense amount of time devoted to the Four Freshmen and the

Four Freshmen Society. All of our lives have been enriched by John's dedication. Moreover, for many of us our lives have been made better by knowing John. As we said when we lost John's good friend Chick Trafford, "It's a blue world without vou."



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