

The Four Freshmen are still going strong, and that's saying something impressive for a band that got their start in 1948. The band was formed at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana when two brothers, Ross and Don Barbour, began improvising harmonies with a cousin and a friend. At first they were influenced by ensembles like Mel Torme's Mel-Tones, but the band found their own unique sophisticated sound that earned them the admiration of Dizzy Gillespie and Woody Herman.

In 1950 The Four Freshmen were discovered by Stan Kenton who introduced them to Capitol Records leading to a long fruitful relationship with the label. Their fame led to The Steve Allen Show and a part in the MGM movie *Rich, Young and Pretty* starring Jane Powell. The 50's were very successful with hit recordings such as *Mood Indigo* and *Day by Day*. Like Frank Sinatra, who recorded on the same label, The Four Freshmen wisely built their albums around themes. In the 60's, the band stayed competitive with other pop acts partly buoyed by the boost given them by Brian Wilson's praise of the group as the inspiration for The Beach Boys' rock and roll sound. They inspired many other vocal groups including Manhattan Transfer and The Mamas and the Papas.

Over the years, when members retired or moved on, The Four Freshmen recruited fresh youthful talent and kept performing. Their longevity is due to the quality of their music and arrangements, the uniqueness of their sound, exciting performances that keep the material fresh and their strong musicianship. Each of the current members is a master of his instrument and they are all good singers. Bob Ferreira who plays drums and sings bass joined the group when the last original member retired in 1992. Stein Malvey sings second tenor and plays guitar. Tommy Boynton sings first tenor and plays bass. Curtis Calderon (trumpet, flugelhorn and baritone vocals) wowed the rest of the band when they heard him in Texas playing trumpet. The band asked him to join in 2001 when their trumpet player retired. They are a young band based on an enduring sound many call the best Four Freshmen ever.

The Four Freshmen have won JazzTimes magazine's Readers Poll Best Vocal Group and DownBeat magazine's Readers Poll. They were presented with a star on the Palm Springs Walk of Stars in 2013. They have over 50 albums, 70 top-selling singles, six Grammy nominations and an enthusiastic active fan club called *The Four Freshmen Society*. The Four Freshmen keep an active schedule putting on exciting and entertaining shows.

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