

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**JAZZ AT WALLOON FEATURING THE FOUR FRESHMEN**

*Shoreline benefit concert for St. Michael Academy*

PETOSKEY, MI, July 9, 2018 == If you enjoy live Jazz and lakeside settings, Jazz at Walloon on July 21, 2018, featuring The Four Freshmen is for you. This a benefit concert for St. Michael Academy, the region's only Classical Catholic high school, and will take place at a private residence on Walloon Lake.

Since their inception in 1948, The Four Freshmen have continued to tour worldwide, entertaining audiences year-round. The original members, Bob Flanigan, Ross Barbour, Don Barbour, and Marvin Pruitt, started out at Butler University as a barbershop quartet heavily influenced by Big Band sounds of Glenn Miller, Mel Torme's Mel Tones, and Stan Kenton's The Pastels.

But their talents extended well beyond their voices. While singing five-part harmony, with hints of Jazz, these accomplished musicians, accompanied themselves on horns, bass, guitar, and drums.

One cold March night in Dayton, OH, Stan Kenton, himself, stopped in to catch a set where Bob, Ross, Don and Marvin were playing, So taken by their talents, Mr. Kenton introduced the group (then called The Toppers) to Capitol Records, resulting in their first recording contract.

Renamed, The Four Freshmen, the group's unique sound took on its own verve, influencing the musical styles of The Lettermen, The Manhattan Transfer, and other chart-toppers like Brian Wilson of The Beach Boys. In 1964, The Beach Boys even covered the 1956 Four Freshmen hit, "Graduation Day."

In his biography, Beach Boy Brian Wilson wrote, "I couldn't get enough [of the Four Freshmen]. I bought every album and single I could find. I played them til the grooves wore out. Transfixed, 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."

Over the years, The Four Freshmen have been made up of twenty-five groups - as one Freshmen retired, a new one joined - but the iconic style of vocal harmony first heard on the Butler University campus, hasn't changed a bit. The current group are multi-talented Jazz musicians every bit as good as any of the groups which preceded them.

Prior to The Four Freshmen taking the stage, ticket holders will be treated to the sounds of Jazz North, an eight-piece band from Traverse City. The venue opens at 5:30, Jazz North plays at 6:00PM and The Four Freshmen take the stage for two sets at 7:45 PM.

Gourmet foods, premium wines, and craft beers are available for purchase. Food and beverage tickets are \$8 each or two for \$15. Enjoy Lobster Rolls, Euro Cheese Plates and more. Soft beverages are complimentary.

Reserved seating can be purchased online at [www.stmichaelpetoskey.org](http://www.stmichaelpetoskey.org), click on the Four Freshmen photo in the upper right corner or reserved with a check by calling Marie Law 231-330-2835. Standard reserved seats are \$100 each, Premium/Orchestra reserved seats are \$125 each. Guest purchasing four or more tickets and arriving in the same vehicle will receive reserved parking. Ask about VIP group packages. Each purchaser will receive tickets and information in the mail prior to the event. The event location is revealed when tickets are purchased.

This outdoor venue is handicap friendly. For more information please visit [www.stmichaelpetoskey.org](http://www.stmichaelpetoskey.org) or contact Marie Law at [marie@stmichaelpetoskey.org](mailto:marie@stmichaelpetoskey.org) or 231-330-2835. Shuttle service is available from Harbor Springs to the event, returning after the concert. Call to inquire.

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