

GROUP BIOGRAPHY

Fourth Avenue is a four man a cappella group that performs a diverse repertoire including pop, soul, R&B, gospel, doo-wop and jazz. Since their start in 1993, they have shared the stage with such national acts as the Beach Boys, The Temptations, Styx, Three Dog Night, and Blessed Union of Souls.

In 1996, they competed in The Harmony Sweepstakes, a competition that took place in Chicago. Not only did **Fourth Avenue** win first place, they also walked away with the award for audience favorite. **Fourth Avenue** went on to the National Harmony Sweepstakes in California, and two of their songs were chosen to appear on an internationally distributed album produced by the Harmony Sweepstakes Organization.

Their debut CD, entitled *Fourth Avenue*, was released in September of 1997. The song *In the Midnight Hour* that appears on the CD won a 1998 Contemporary A Cappella Recording Award for Best Doo-Wop/R&B Song of the Year.

Fall of 1998, **Fourth Avenue** began touring with the Muse Machine, an organization which brings professional artists into the secondary school system of Ohio's Miami Valley. After giving a preview to Miami Valley's Muse Machine teachers, **Fourth Avenue** set a new record by being booked in over seventy schools their first year with the organization. Later that same year, **Fourth Avenue** was selected to be on the Ohio Arts Council Fee Support Roster, a program providing federal funding to preferred Ohio touring artists.

Fourth Avenue performed full time at Paramount's Kings Island amusement park for five years. After completing their fifth year there, they were nominated for the 1999 International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Variety Entertainer of the Year Award.

Because of high standing with the Ohio Arts Council, **Fourth Avenue** was selected in 2000 to be part of the Heartland Arts Fund Community Connections Fee Support Program. This program allowed artists to receive fee support from the National Endowment for the Arts and fifteen partner state arts agencies in the Heartland region of the United States (Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin).

In 2003, **Fourth Avenue** was nominated again for a Contemporary A Cappella Recording award for Best Pop/Rock Cover song for their rendition of *Fade to Grey*, which appears on their album, *Scrapbook*. They also performed in the Netherlands for Holland America Cruise Line's 130th Anniversary. In addition, **Fourth Avenue** was featured in a regional ad campaign for Safe Auto Insurance in 2003, 2004 and 2006.

For information contact: Scott Dawson, (937) 426-4980, or <http://www.fourthavenue.com>

MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

Scott Dawson, baritone

In 1993, Scott was offered a scholarship to major in music at Wright State University after successfully completing a degree in Applied Media Arts from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Completing his degree in Music, he was hired to perform with the Dayton Opera in productions such as *Tosca*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Faust*, and many others. Scott also has done professional musical theatre with the Human Race Theatre Company of Dayton. As a concert soloist, he has performed with members of the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra in the Seasholes Concert Series at The First Baptist Church of Dayton, and was a featured recitalist for The Dayton Art Institute's Twilight Concert Series. Scott was an adjunct faculty member of Wright State University teaching voice in the Theatre Arts Department for several years and is now currently Community Outreach and Education Director for Clark State Community College Performing Arts Center.

Maurice Harris, tenor and vocal percussionist

Maurice studied trumpet, drums, and piano before becoming interested in vocal music. This interest manifested itself with participation in the Hastings Honor Choir and the Nebraska Wesleyan Honor Choir. During his music studies at the University of Nebraska and Wright State University, he appeared in *Le nozze di Figaro* (Basilio) and *La Perichole* (Old Prisoner). Maurice was also honored as a featured soloist in *A Night of Class*, a recital highlighting African American musicians. His professional credits include performances in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and a tenor solo in Handel's *Messiah*. In June of 1999, Maurice tied for first place in a competition featuring some of the country's best vocal percussionists. Maurice gives workshops on vocal percussion technique all over the country and has become one of the leading authorities in this field.

Ryan Holway, tenor

Ryan's musical beginnings were rooted in instrumental music with emphasis on the clarinet. He distinguished himself as a three-time recipient of first place honors in the Young Musicians Talent Competition, and was 1st chair clarinet for two years in the Columbus Symphony Cadet Orchestra. At that time, Ryan also became involved in vocal music and was a member of the Ohio All State Choir. His passion for singing continued with roles in *Oklahoma* (Will Parker) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Constable). After majoring in vocal performance at Wright State University, Ryan was a professional soloist and chorister with St. Paul's Episcopal Church and First Baptist Church of Dayton. Ryan has a Certificate of Audio Recording Engineering from the International College of Broadcasting.

Jim Brown, bass

After getting an early start in musical theatre in such productions as *The Sound of Music* (Captain Georg von Trapp) and *Hello Dolly!* (Rudolph), Jim continued his vocal studies while obtaining a finance degree from Wright State University. He held soloist/section leader positions in numerous Dayton-area choruses, and made appearances with the Air Force Band of Flight and the Dayton United Lutheran Chorale. After completing his MBA, Jim returned to musical theater, starring in productions such as *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Caiaphas) and *The Full Monty* (Jerry). Most notably, he won a DayTony Award for the role of Reverend Sprague in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Other onstage credits include *The Crazy Knights of Improv*, an improvisational comedy troupe. Jim has served as Musical Director for various productions, including *Into the Woods* and *South Pacific*, and he co-directed the premier production of *Before the Final Touch*. Jim is currently President of Playhouse South Community Theater.

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