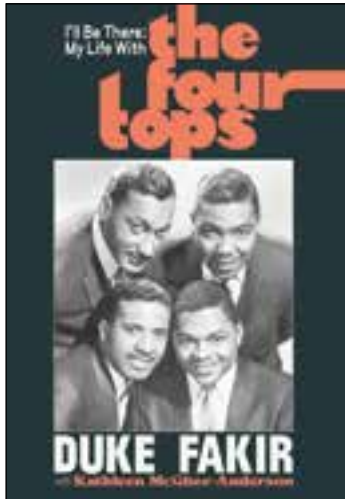


Story of the Four Tops



The Story of The Four Tops - The Four Tops, comprised of Renaldo "Obie" Benson (from left), Levi Stubbs Abdul "Duke" Fakir, and Lawrence Payton, are inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame back in 1990.. (AP photo)

The story of The Four Tops, the famous Motown harmony group, began at a high school graduation party in Detroit, when four young men were hoping to impress the girls with an impromptu performance.

That night in 1954, when Abdul "Duke" Fakir, Levi Stubbs, Renaldo "Obie" Benton and Lawrence Payton sung together for the first time, was the start of a lifelong brotherhood. Now that musical history will be laid

out in a memoir called "I'll Be There: My Life With The Four Tops" coming out on May 5 by Fakir, the last surviving member of The Four Tops.

"We came together in such beautiful harmony that we'd never rehearsed," said Fakir. "The voices were a perfect blend from first tenor to the second tenor to baritone bass. And we had one of the greatest lead singers in Detroit and it just happened just like that."

Over their career, The Four Tops helped define the Motown sound of R&B and soul. They would be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and earn a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Recording Academy.

For Fakir, he wanted the book to memorialize not just his life, but also the bond that the four men created. He also is working on a musical based on The Four Tops as well.

Music Hall Guitars Stolen

The Oregon Music Hall of Fame in Portland recently had 80 autographed guitars stolen from a storage unit that were to be used in an auction to raise money for music education and scholarship programs.

They include guitars signed by The Monkees, George Clinton, Lucinda Williams, Arlo Guthrie and Portugal The Man. There were also guitars signed by each OMHOF annual group of inductees to go on display at the Youth Music Project's Oregon Music

Hall of Fame permanent exhibit in West Linn.

The police report has been filed but Oregon Music Hall of Fame volunteers need help to recover and restore these precious instruments that may currently be for sale on line or through a variety of outlets like music stores and pawn shops or just word-of-mouth options.

If you have any information on this burglary please notify OMHOF scholarship director Janeen Rundle by email at info@omhof.org or the Portland police.

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