

## Vocal Victory: Bay Boys Debut Delights Campus Audience

*By Sarah Wyner*

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*Caption: The Bay Boys quartet mesmerizing the audience during their debut concert at the Ferman Center for the Arts Gallery in Tampa, Florida.*

Echoes of classic tunes filled the halls of the University of Tampa campus as the Bay Boys quartet made their electrifying debut. Students Benjamin Sutherland, Matthew Jay, Ethan Lucas, and Max Dalton, collectively known as the Bay Boys, serenaded a charmed audience with their soulful renditions of iconic songs such as "Sleepy," "Coney Island," and a medley from "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

The event, held on March 30, 2024, brought together students, family, and faculty from the University, each eager to witness the magic of barbershop harmony unfold before their eyes. As the lights dimmed at 2 p.m., and the quartet took the stage, anticipation ran rampant through the air. There was not a seat to be had in the gallery, and the Bay Boys launched into their first number, sending a sense of shock and allure to their audience.

"I was expecting them to be good, but this was another level," voiced Alyssa Hernandez, a Junior majoring in Musical Theatre. "Their voices blended together seamlessly and reminded me why I love the art of music so deeply."

Indeed, the Bay Boys' performance was a masterclass in vocal precision and camaraderie. From the deep and warm baritone notes provided by Jay to the crisp tenor lines of Dalton, every member of the quartet played a crucial role in creating a harmonious masterpiece. Sutherland's bass voice added pivotal resolve to the ensemble, and Lucas' leading vocals proved to be exceptionally impressive. Each song was even more powerful and accomplished than the next.

"It's not just about hitting the notes written on the sheet music," explained Lucas during an interview after the concert. "Barbershop singing is all about connection – with the music, with each other, and with the audience. When you find that perfect blend, it's pure magic."

The audience couldn't agree more. Throughout the concert, applause and laughter flooded the gallery, highlighting the impact each flawless chord progression and vocal arrangement had on the audience. The quartet did an excellent job keeping the show moving with their hilarious in-between bits that kept the audience engaged from one piece to another. The Bay Boys even included many shoutouts that involved individuals present in the audience, adding to the connection of the piece. For many, the event served as an important reminder of the gift of music.

"I've always been a fan of the music/theatre majors here on campus," noted Alison Kline, a Junior studying Nursing. "The Bay Boys created another outlet for me to experience the energy and passion that they always bring to the stage!"

As they finished with the fan-favorite medley of The Hunchback of Notre Dame, the Bay Boys left a lasting impact on all of who attended, leaving audience members wanting more concerts throughout the semester from the group. Their debut concert was not just a performance, but also a celebration of talent and timeless appeal of barbershop harmony.

For those inspired by the Bay Boys' triumphant harmonies, I have some good news for you: similar events are happening all around campus, just waiting to be discovered by people like you. Whether it's open mic nights, choir performances, or mainstage musicals, there are so many opportunities to experience the joy of live music and friendship.

Follow the Bay Boys on Instagram, [@utbayboys](#), to stay up to date with future performances and more.