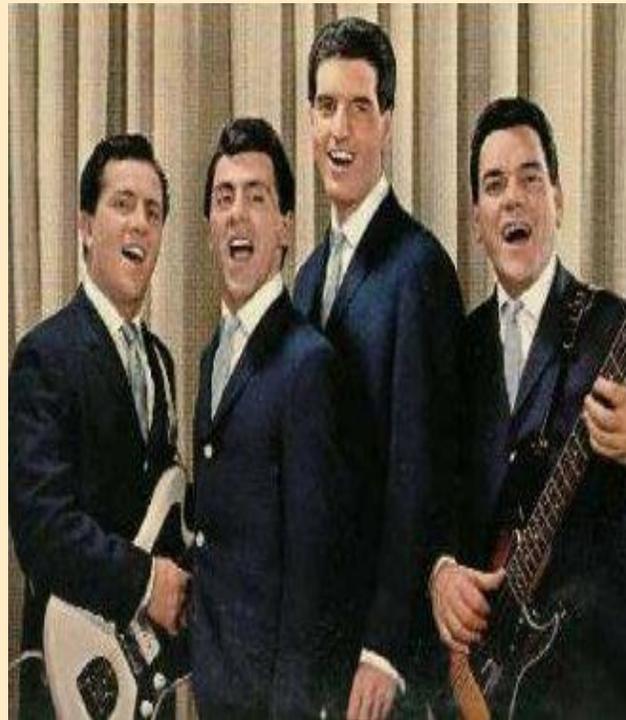


# The Jersey Boys-The Four Seasons

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# Introduction



- They are one of the most successful American rock/pop bands and were the most popular Rock group before the Beatles.
- They charted 39 singles and 21 albums and are the only group to have a hot #1 hit on the Billboard chart before, during and after the Beatles.

# Why we chose "The Four Seasons"

- The musical versatility of the Four Seasons.
- Interesting fusion and integration of various forms of music, such as, R&B, pop, and jazz.
- They were pioneers in various artistic musical improvisations, such as, Doo-woop, Contemporary pop/rock, AM pop.
- Their innovative and experimental music
- Their first hit single "Sherry" is captivating.
- The group members were never consistent and Frankie Vallie was the only consistent member, that never stopped them from being able to entice and fascinate their teen audiences

## Timeline - A brief overview

- The original band was formed in 1956 by Frankie Valli, Tommy Devito, Hank Majewski and Frank Cattone and were called the Variatones and later the name of this quartet was changed to The Four Lovers.
- In the 1960s, Bob Gaudio joined the group as a replacement of Nick Devito and Nick Massi on bass. Later that year, the name of the group was changed to "The Four Seasons", which was a bowling alley in New Jersey where they had previously auditioned.
- Though they initially went through a rough patch, the "Four Seasons" tasted first success with their super-hit single "Sherry".

## Timeline - The rise to fame

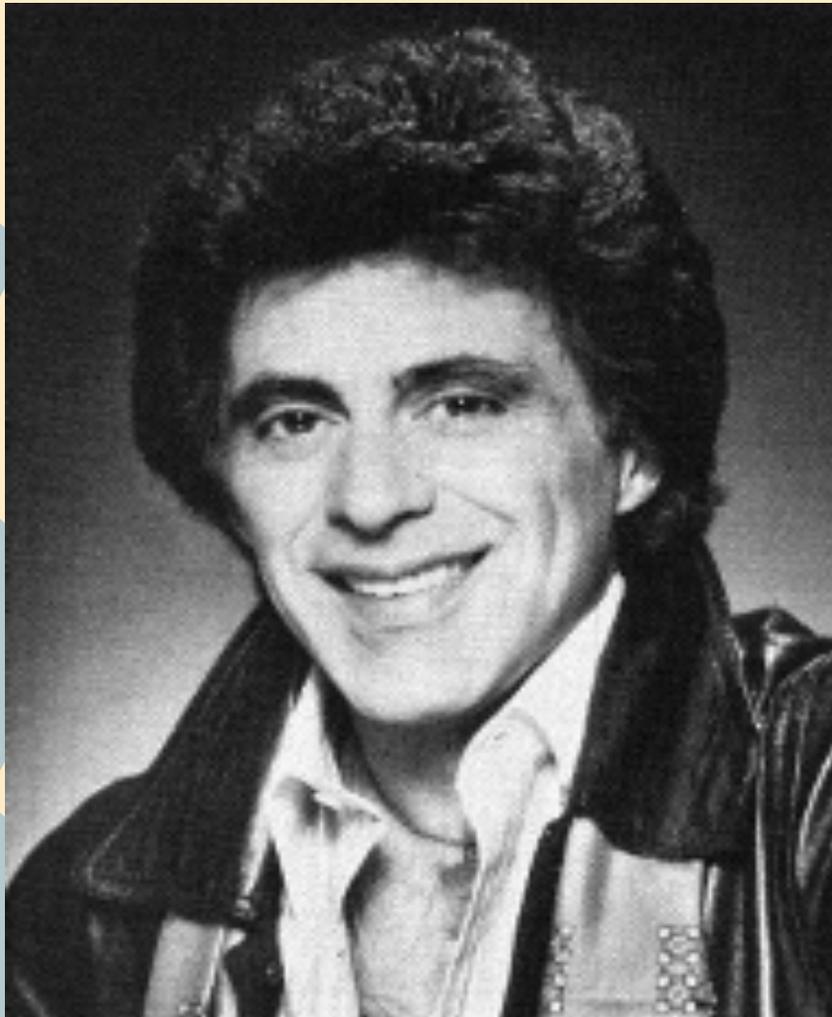
- After "Sherry", they went on to produce a series of hits, such as, "Big girls don't cry" and "Candy Girl" under the guidance of Songwriter/Producer Bob Crewe.
- They maintained constant monopoly at the top of the charts between 1962 to 1964.
- After a short patchy spell, the quartet returned strong in 1975 with the release of "The four season's story" which soon became a gold record.
- They continued to rule the "disco era" with hit singles from Frankie Valli and albums like "Who Loves you".
- Their last great hit was the 1978 platinum single "Grease."

# The life of Frankie Valli

- Valli, the lead singer of the Rock quartet, his birth name was Francesco Stephen Castelluccio and was born on May 3rd, 1934 in Newark, New Jersey.
- His greatest inspiration was singer Texas Jean Valli from whom he obtained his last name "Valli".



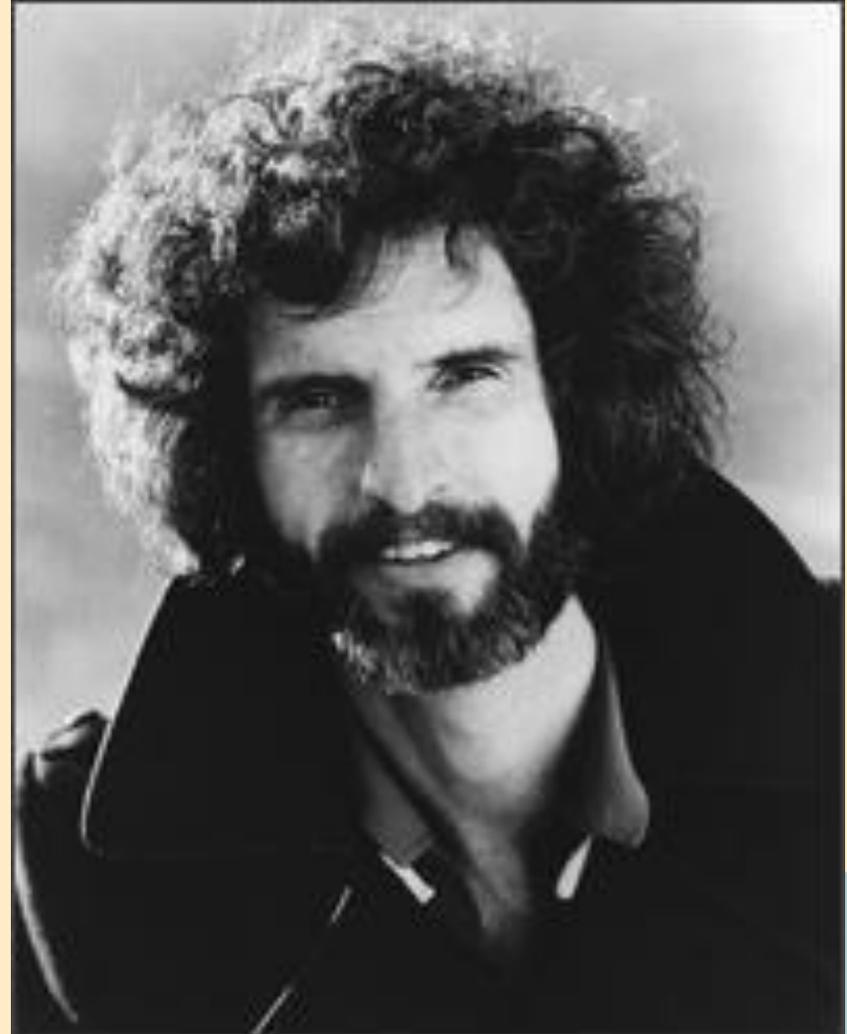
## More on Frankie Valli



- He composed 29 of the 40 greatest hits for the group and had a successful solo career with hits, such as, "My eyes Adored you." He became a teen sensation for his powerful falsetto voice.
- He suffered from Otosclerosis but after surgery most of his singing abilities have been restored.

# The musical genius- Bob Gaudio

- He was born Robert John Gaudio on 11/17/1941 in New York and was raised in New Jersey.
- He rose to fame at the age of 15 with "short shorts" from his band Royal Teens.
- He has also composed several hits for The Four Seasons, such as, "Sherry."



## More on Bob Gaudio

- He is credited for writing most of the hits for the group such as; "Walk like a man", "Rag doll " and "Who loves you" with Bob Crewe.
- He was the brain behind the musical genius of the Four seasons and many other artists.
- He has been in instrumental of the Jersey Boys show -a musical based on the Four Seasons.
- He is an active humanitarian and has been honored for his contribution to the music industry.

# Tommy Devito



- He was born on 5/19/1928 in Belleville, New Jersey. He was one of the founding members of the Four Seasons.
- He was the lead guitarist and baritone vocalist of the group until 1970.
- He was part of the greatest works of the quartet on several occasions.

# Nick Massi

- He was born Nicholas Macioci on 9/19/1927 in Newark, New Jersey.
- He was the bass guitarist for the Four seasons.
- He was also a part of several other groups before he joined the Four Seasons.
- He arranged the music for the ensemble for many of their hits.



- [http:// www.morethings.com](http://www.morethings.com)
- Massi sadly lost his battle to cancer on December 24 ,2000.
- His contribution is greatly appreciated worldwide.

# A brief discography of their Hits

## Singles

1. Can't take my eyes off you (1981)
2. Sherry (1962)
3. Who Loves you (1975)
4. December' 63(1975)
5. Walk like a man (1963)
6. Beggin'(1967)
7. Rag doll(1967)
8. My eyes adored you(1981).

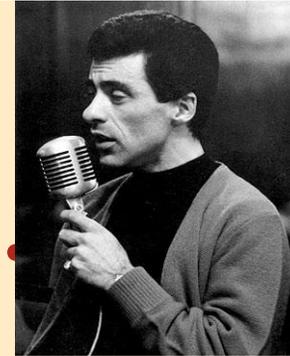
## Albums

1. Who loves you (1975)
2. Sherry & the 11 others (1962)
3. Baby Girls don't cry(1963)
4. New Gold hits(1967)
5. Ain't that a Shame (1965)
6. Reunited-live(1981)

# Musical Style

- The Four Seasons majorly contributed to the evolution of rock and roll with their distinct musical style.
- As a child, Frankie Vallie was strongly influenced by jazz artists such as "The 4 Freshmen" and "The Hi-Los." He also enjoyed R&B bands such as "The Clovers and "The Drifters." This early influence was clearly evident in many of The Four Season's songs.
- In fact, there was such a strong Jazz and R&B influence in their music, that some listeners initially thought that The Four Seasons were black. (credit to [vocalgroup.org](http://vocalgroup.org))

## Musical Style Continued...



- A bigger trademark of the group's musical style other than R&B and Jazz was the group's focus on vocals.
- The group was very lyrically and harmonically oriented - The Four Seasons often drew comparisons to the "Doo Wop" style of the 50s.
- Led by singer Frankie Valli and his amazing falsetto voice, the group and its style became world renown.

## Musical style Continued...

- The Beach Boy's musical style was often compared to the that of the Four Seasons.
- They both shared a style that focused mainly on the vocal and lyrical aspect of music.
- Another similarity they shared were the instruments both groups played.
- The guitar, both acoustic and bass, and the piano were the primary instruments used.

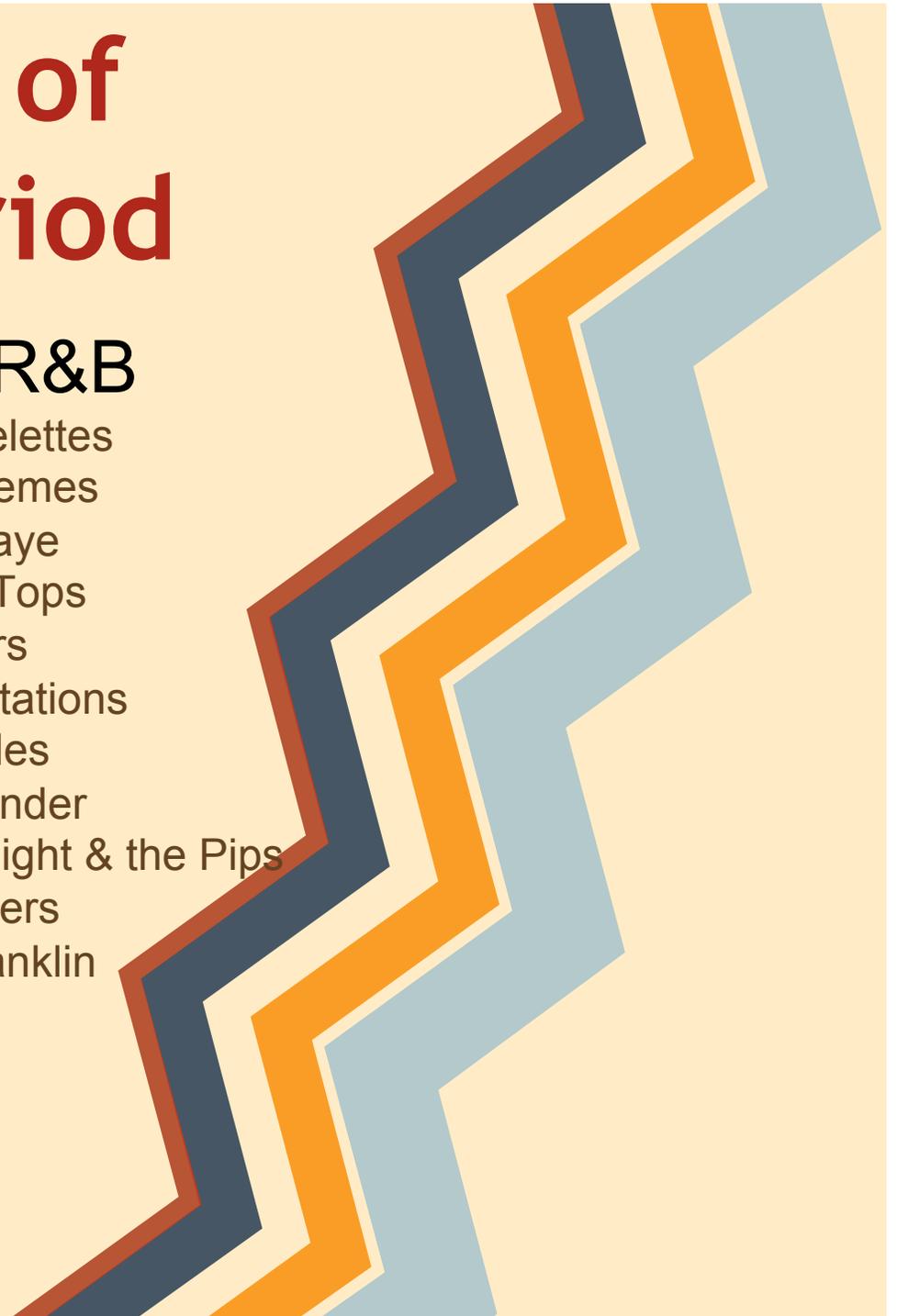
# Other Music of The Time Period

## British Invasion:

- The Beatles
- The Who
- The Rolling Stones
- The Yardbirds
- Donovan
- Manfred
- The Kinks
- Tom Jones
- Dusty Springfield
- The Animals

## Motown R&B

- The Marvelettes
- The Supremes
- Marvin Gaye
- The Four Tops
- The Drifters
- The Temptations
- The Miracles
- Stevie Wonder
- Gladys Knight & the Pips
- The Spinners
- Aretha Franklin



# Continued...

## Surf Rock & Psychedelic Rock

- The Beach Boys
- The Ventures
- The Champs
- The Doors
- The Grateful Dead
- The Jimi Hendrix Experience
- Jefferson Airplane
- Jan and Dean
- The Kingsmen
- The Trashmen

# Continued...

## Folk Rock & Protest Music

- Bob Dylan
- Simon & Garfunkel
- The Mamas & the Papas
- Buffalo Springfield, Crosby, Stills & Nash
- The Lovin' Spoonful
- The Byrds
- The Turtles
- Gordon Lightfoot, Peter, Paul and Mary

## Roots Rock & Hard Rock

- Janis Joplin
- Creedence Clearwater
- Revival
- Steppenwolf
- Roy Orbison
- Procol Harum
- The Rolling Stones
- The Who
- The Animals
- The Band
- The Troggs

# Political & Social Events

- JFK Assassination
- Marilyn Monroe Found Dead
- Cuban Missile Crisis
- Martin Luther King Jr Makes "I Have A Dream" Speech
- Civil Rights Act Passes
- GI Joe Action Figure Launched
- US Sends Troops To Vietnam
- Black Panther Party Established
- First Super Bowl
- Robert F Kennedy Assassination

# Musical Influences

## Who Influenced Them?

- The Four Freshman - used open-harmonic jazz arrangements
  - started as a band in 1948
- Hi-Lo/Modernaires - more jazz based bands
- Clovers/Drifters - classic R&B bands
- Rose Murphy/Dinah Washington - high voices, he connected to that when he was a child

# Musical Influences

## Who did they influence?

- They influenced many bands
- To name a few...Barry Gibb, Billy Joel, Brian Wilson

# Musical Analysis

- Song we will be focussing on -December, 1963(Oh what a night)
- We choose this song as it is one of their biggest hits and captures their musical style perfectly.
- Released in their album- Who Loves you (1975)
- Genre :Dance-Rock/Disco.
- Length -3:36 seconds
- Written by -Bob Gaudio for his future wife.

# Analysis of the song



The song is centered around a man remembering his first love.

- The song is a very upbeat and rhythmic song. The metric division of the beats is 4/4.
- It is chiefly a piano-led song, with recognizable opening drums and guitar riffs.
- The song features then drummer Grace Polci on Lead vocals, Frankie Valli singing the bridge sections.

# Conclusion

- They were the popular idols of their age, so much so there is a Broadway musical called "Jersey Boys" based on them using a unique Rashomon effect..
- They were inducted into the Rock and Roll hall of fame in 1990, commemorating their success



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