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Nick Massi, Low Man in the Four Seasons, Dies at 73

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NEWARK, Jan. 7 — Nick Massi, a member of the Four Seasons who handled bass vocals and vocal arrangements throughout the band's glory days, died on Dec. 24 in West Orange, N.J. He was 73.

Mr. Massi, whose original name was Nicholas Macioci, was born in Newark. He performed with several bands before joining Frankie Valli in a group called the Four Lovers. By 1961 the group had evolved into the Four Seasons.

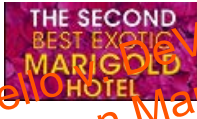
He remained with the group until 1965, when he grew tired of touring, Mr. Valli said. Mr. Massi and the group performed hits like "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like a Man" and "Rag Doll," which friends said was his favorite.

During his tenure, the group made the Billboard Top 40 chart 17 times and toured throughout the United States and overseas, melding doo-wop vocals with a contemporary beat. They were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990.

Mr. Valli, whose falsetto was the band's trademark, said that Mr. Massi was his musical mentor.

"He could do four-part modern harmonies that would amaze musicians who had studied for years," he said.

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