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Straight

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No Chaser developed a cappella arrangements for songs by some acts that are considered pillars of the style – including Toto, Kenny Loggins, the Michael McDonald edition of the Doobie Brothers, Steely Dan and Rupert Holmes. And the group teamed up with a producer who was uniquely qualified to help the group authentically convey the yacht rock experience — Nicholas Niespodziani, singer/guitarist/band leader of the Yacht Rock Revue, the group that has spearheaded the rise of the genre.

Isho had high praise for how Niespodziani worked with the nine vocalists.

“Nick was really intent on getting us to really understand the (yacht rock) vibe,” Isho said. “And it got as intricate as how to attack a note, how to come off of a note, what type of vibrato to use. Nick was really, really involved in

the details. I think when you listen to the album and compare it to other stuff we’ve done, it’s going to feel a little bit different. I don’t know how much your average listener will be able to tell, but for us who are so close to it, it’s super obvious to us.”

Straight No Chaser’s vocal blend has arguably never sounded better than on “Yacht on the Rocks,” but another strong point is the inventive arrangements of certain songs.

A prime example is the Doobie Brothers’ hit “What A Fool Believes,” on which Straight No Chaser slows the tempo, puts an effectively jazzy and soulful spin on the opening half of the song that’s different enough to be unrecognizable before flowing into the song’s familiar melody. Other tunes, such as Holmes’ “Escape (The Pina Colada Song),” Christopher Cross’ “Sailing” and Earth, Wind & Fire’s “After The Love Has Gone,” hue closer to the familiar versions, but translate well to the a

cappella form.

A few of the songs, like “Reelin’ In The Years” and a mashup of the Doobie Brothers’ “Takin’ It To The Streets” and the Martha and the Vandellas’ Motown hit “Dancing in the Streets” aren’t yacht rock songs by definition, but are included on “Yacht on the Rocks” because the live show needed some uptempo material.

“We were like ‘OK, we can’t do a show of slow. People are going to be like ‘OK, I can’t sit through two hours of this,’” Isho said. “I don’t want to say we shoehorned a few things in here and there to get some tempo into the show, but we did. And I think it works.”

Alan Sculley is a freelance writer.

STRAIGHT NO CHASER

When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday

Where: Miller Symphony Hall, Allentown

Tickets: millersymphonyhall.org



Volunteer Center
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have a passion for working with horses and people? Summer camp at Equi-librium in Nazareth will be held 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. the week of July 10-14 AND August 21-25. No experience necessary, we provide all the training. Please contact us to schedule a visit to the farm for a tour and to get your questions answered. Minimum age 14. Contact Pam, 610-365-2266, volunteercoordinator@equi-librium.org.

Want to help shelter animals without adopting them? Support The Center for Animal Health & Welfare by accepting or denying donations for our thrift store, Project Paw, in Easton. Sort and organize donations to their correct location in the store. Contact Carolyn Southwick, 610-252-7792, volunteer@healthyanimalcenter.org.

Become a Foster Care & Adoption Ambassador. The committee’s goals are to create, identify, and facilitate new ways to reach out to the community and increase awareness about adoption and foster care and about the services provided by The Salvation Army Children’s Services. The Committee meets virtually 7-8 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. Contact Emily Anthony, 610-821-7706, emily.anthony@use.salvationarmy.org.

Visit our website www.volunteerlv.org for a larger listing of volunteer opportunities or contact us at 610-807-0336, vc@volunteerlv.org for more information.

Mark Your Calendar for the 85th Warren County Farmers’ Fair!

Warren County Farmers’ Fairgrounds • County Rte. 519, Harmony Twp., NJ

July 29 - August 5

Weekends 12-10 pm Weekdays 3-10 pm



Warren County Farmers’ Fair

featuring the

Hot Air Balloon Festival

Full Schedule & Advance Admission Tickets at WarrenCountyFarmersFair.org



Visiting our area for the first time? Visit ExploreWarren.org before you head out & plan a few more stops!



Download Brochure



Free Concerts & Performances at the Fair

Saturday, July 29 | School of Rock | 6:30-9:30 pm

Sunday, July 30 | Time Whys band | 6-9 pm

Thursday, August 3 | Waitin’ On Sundown band | 4-7 pm

Friday, August 4 | The Dr. Dick Show | 5-9 PM

Saturday, August 5

Andrew Lobby, singer | 12-2 pm

Circle Round the Sun band | 3-5 pm

Avenue 16 band | 6:30-9:30 pm

Check it off your Bucket List!

TAKE A BALLOON RIDE

Full flights - email fly@balloonfestnj.com

Tethered Rides (short up and down) - Purchase at Event

Event Hours:

Saturdays | Sunday 12-10pm
Monday - Friday 3-10pm

ADMISSION

Adults \$10.00 | Children 6-12 \$5.00
FREE: Ages 5 & Under & Parking

\$\$\$ave on Admission Tickets thru 7/28 at: warrencountyfarmersfair.org

Special Admission Days

- Sunday: Veterans Day. Consider bringing a donation for the Food Warriors Food Drive on Sunday.
- Monday: free for Seniors. Enjoy the free Senior Expo, from 12 - 4 pm at the Fair. (Note other Fair activity may start at 3pm)



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