

ROB FALGIANO

PRESS: ALL STAR HEART

THE BUFFALO NEWS
ENTERTAINMENT

Three Dog Night takes us back

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NEWS REVIEWER

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LOCKPORT — When Three Dog Night took the stage Friday night in Lockport, audience members were transported back to the spontaneity and musical sincerity of the 1970s. In fact, if it weren't for the music, that might have been a time — due to embarrassing hairdos and tacky bellbottoms — that some would rather forget.

But, as with all good music, Three Dog Night's legendary hits transcend other weird memories of the era.

Three Dog Night gave a good sampling of some of their best songs, including "Black and White," "One Man Band," "Never Been to Spain" and "Shambala," as well as some less-familiar oldies.

The group was true to the original recordings, except for "Shambala," which was sung in a lower key, probably to make up for their more limited vocal range.

Regardless of any changes, though, the music was still catchy after all these decades, albeit a little less '70s-sounding, with a strong bass and drums to amplify the song.

Commanding the stage were lead singer and Buffalo native Cory Wells as well as co-founder Danny Hutton. Filling out the group were keyboardist Jimmy Greenspoon and guitarist Michael Allsup.

After 40 years on the road and more than 2,000 shows, including two Super Bowls, Three Dog Night was not short on enthusiasm. And the group's fans appreciated this — there were grins on many faces in the Molson Canal Concert Series audience.

Warming things up for Wells, Hutton and company were Leroy Townes and Rob Falgiano.

Townes started the mood off right with his rootsy style. He and his band members now call Buffalo home. Falgiano, who was born and raised in Buffalo, is certainly a familiar face, as well.

He also took on a last-minute solo acoustic gig before Ingrid Michaelson's performance at Thursday in the Square earlier in the summer and is a well-known singer/songwriter in the area.

His performance Friday night presented the audience with a mosaic of influences that conjure up a likable and sometimes funky sound. His work vaguely resembles that of John Mayer's earlier soft pop rock albums, and even has a little Doobie Brothers feel thrown into the mix. But occasionally, Falgiano will allow for a blues riff or a searing electric guitar solo — resembling the sounds of summer cicadas set to a melody.

Because he has such a big following, Falgiano was warmly welcomed to the stage. His new album, "All Star Heart" was released in May.

Falgiano's Web site claims that "there are no barriers between genres — only those we invent."

That makes sense given his take on composition. While numbers like "Welcome to Our Song" were a bit repetitive, he is mellow and never pushes his voice — a much appreciated quality.

Concert Review

Three Dog Night

With Leroy Townes and Rob Falgiano. Friday evening as part of the Molson Canal Concert Series, Ulrich City Centre, Lockport.

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– Allison Eck, The Buffalo News (Buffalo, NY)

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