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ON AIR'S CLASSIC ROCK TOPS SACRAMENTO'S A-LIST

On Air, Sacramento's premier classic rock horn band, was announced as the 2017 winner in the Best Local Band category of the Sacramento A-List out of more than 200 area groups. City Voter, sponsor of the A-List, accepted nominations and votes from the community in various categories. Last year, On Air was voted into the Top Five.

"Solid rock music, tight harmony, and white hot horns characterize the On Air sound," according to the band's publicity. No fewer than five members are vocalists, both lead and backup. They perform the best of '70s and '80s groups like Chicago, Steely Dan, the Doobie Brothers, and Van Morrison along with a mix of Motown and Stax landmark hits and contemporary selections.

A staple each year at spring and summer park concerts, On Air has been featured repeatedly at venues like the Sacramento Music Festival in Old Sacramento, where the group appeared last spring for the third straight year, also summer concerts at Fair Oaks Park, Carmichael Park, Curtis Park, the Fountains, and several other regular series.

For more than a decade, On Air has been a part of the annual Thanksgiving day Run to Feed the Hungry sponsored by the Sacramento Food Bank. Over the years, the band has performed at such venues as the old Sacramento Blues Festival, the California State Fair, the Nevada County Fair, the Dixon Mayfair, the Vacaville Onion Festival, the Stockton Asparagus Festival and others. And they have entertained at countless private events along the way.

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The On Air rhythm section consists of guitarist and founding member Bob Lang who shares vocal chores with lead guitarist Brian Hack, bass player Tony Oddo, and girl vocalist Suzanne Weissenberg. Rounding out the rhythm section is Barry Reynolds on keyboards and Geno Guerere on drums. The unique sound of On Air, though, is found in the distinctive six-piece horn section: Brian Nakagawa on trombone, Craig Yamamoto and Raul Sandoval on tenor sax, Brad Tom on baritone sax, and trumpeters Greg Evans, the band's arranger, and Vahan Kachadorian, who's also a vocalist.

Members of the group tend to remain with On Air. Nearly half of the musicians have been with the band since or near its inception more than 30 years ago and most of the rest have been a part of the group for the better part of the last decade.

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