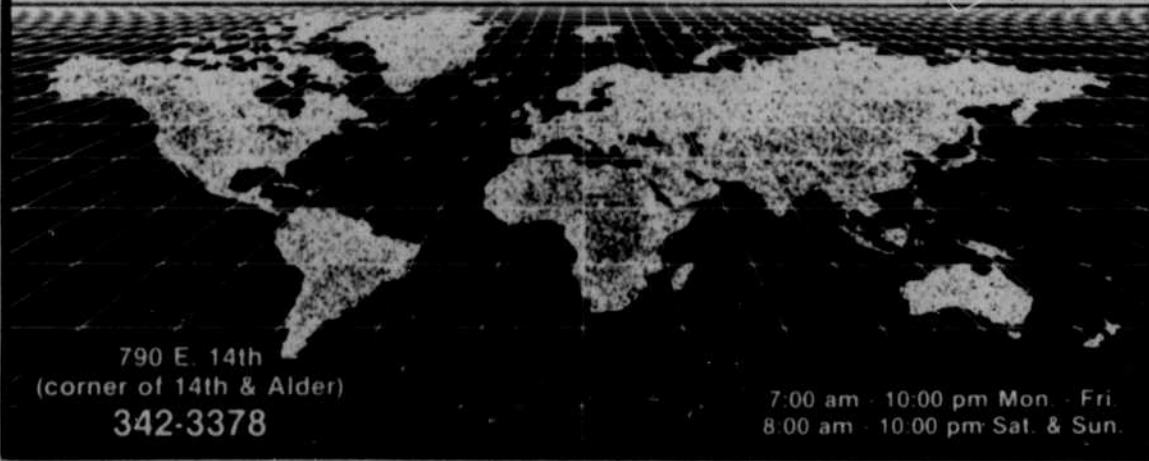


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MUSIC

Hooters achieve poised sound

When the Philadelphia-based rock group the Hooters burst into the limelight in 1985 with its platinum-selling debut album "Nervous Night," the band brought a fresh style that earned it the best new band award from magazines such as Rolling

the reggae and ska movement of the early 1980s. And while the reggae beat is still in the background of the latest LP, the new Hooters record has a much more ethnic flavor to it.

By Carolyn Lamberson

Stone and Cream.

The follow-up album "One Way Home," released in mid-summer, takes the band in a different direction. While the composition of the band remained the same, the sound is different, said singer/songwriter/keyboardist Rob Hyman.

The brand of music Hooters played on "Nervous Night" borrowed a lot of qualities from

"The first album was a real straight ahead 4-4 rock and roll album with a few exceptions," Hyman said. On "One Way Home," the band expanded on the instrumentation and experimented with rhythm changes, he added, citing the song "Washington's Day" as an example of multiple rhythm changes.

"One Way Home" provides the listener with a variety of sounds, instruments and images. While the hooter, the band's trademark instrument and the mandolin were prevalent on the previous album, "One Way" offers something else. The mandolin and accordion duet at the beginning of "Karla with a K" and the strong rhythm section (headed by drummer David Uosikkinen and bassist Andy King) throughout the record are not only pleasing to the ear but excellent. The accordion is an instrument most people would associate with Lawrence Welk, but Hooters, nicknaming the instrument 'Rolo,' have found its use important enough to warrant using it as part of the album's cover art.

And one can't leave out the fine guitar work of John Lilley and Hyman's keyboards in "Graveyard Waltz," a song that provides the album with a nice balance. A slow, haunting ballad, "Waltz" is a contrast to the more upbeat but cynical numbers "Satellite," "Johnny B" and "Hard Rocking Summer."

It is this combination that Hyman believes sounds even more like the real Hooters than the band did on "Nervous Night."

Selling more than a million copies, "Nervous Night" spawned four singles: "All You Zombies," "And We Danced," "Day by Day" and "Where do the Children Go." The band has a lot of expectations for the latest record, but Hyman likes to look at its future realistically.

"We have high hopes (for the new record), but if it didn't out sell the last one that wouldn't change our outlook. This was the best album we could make at this time, so we're real happy with it. In fact, we're very happy with it musically and lyrically. We think it's a good step forward.

"This is just one of many albums we'd like to make, so it's not like this is the album we want to sell 10 million albums," he said. "Because then it would be tougher next time."

The four singles and initial sales of "One Way Home" serve as evidence of the band's increasing popularity. By mid-August, the album sold almost 500,000 copies and broke into the top 30 on Billboard's Pop Album chart. Hyman credits the band's larger audience to the massive amounts of touring it has done in the past. They were on the road for almost a year supporting "Nervous Night" and actually had to pull themselves off the road to begin

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