Go Fish

Adler Theatre

Thursday, December 18, 7 p.m.

Jamie Statema, Jason Folkmann, and Andy Selness are the men of Go Fish, one of the most unique groups in the music industry. In 1993, Statema formed Go Fish - then a Christian-influenced a cappella group aimed at adults - and their first independent project, recorded in 1995, sold more than 100,000 copies.

Despite their early success, they felt the need to switch things up, and in 2003 released their first children's a cappella record, *Splash*. "If this was all over today, I would look back and remember the first weekend we did our kids' concerts," says Statema on the band's Web site (GoFishGuys.com). "Because after eight years of doing Go Fish, we all knew what those years were for - without a doubt, we knew where God wanted us. It was a crazy journey to get to that place, but so clear how necessary those years were to prepare us for what we're doing now."

Since *Splash,* the men have stuck to recording children's albums, their most recent being *Party Like a Preschooler.*
All the members of the group are married, and Statema and Selness are now both parents, making their outreach more personal. "When you have children, you want to protect them with everything you have, but you can't," says Statema. "And so, when you open that door and let someone else play a part in the life of your child, that is a huge thing, especially when that person is talking about principles for living. We take that responsibility extremely seriously."

Go Fish performs at 7 p.m. on December 18, and for more information on the event, visit Adler Theatre.com
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- Ashley Allen

Groovatron

Bent River Brewing Company

Saturday, December 20

The musicians of Groovatron, who play the Bent River Brewing Company on December 20, were the recipients of Jambase.com 's "Best Breakthrough Performance" citation following the 2006 Wakarusa Music Festival, and describing the band in *Hittin' the Note Magazine,* Jaime Lee wrote, "They play with abandon and, like any good spice, boast a flavor that is enhancing from beginning to end."

Ah ... just like the *Reader* staff.

Composed of Andy Dumareq, Nicholas Ferrer, Tony McCullough, Steve Pesich, Marc Quagliara, and Tony Qualls, Groovatron's blend of funk and progressive rock has found fans among music critics (*Relix* magazine's Mick Skidmore called the group "an exceptionally fine 21st Century band"), fellow rockers (members of Umphrey's McGree and the String Cheese Incident have sat in as guest musicians), and audiences at the 600-plus live shows Groovatron has thus far performed.

And if you visit Groovatron.com , you'll get an excellent sense of both the band's sense of humor - Ferrer, bless him, has a feature titled "Nick's *Simpsons* Quote of the Week" - and the completely unpredictable nature of Groovatron concerts, which, we are told, "can take any number of forms, from synchronized dancing and matching (and sometimes non-matching) costumes" to "full-blown skits including pajama jammy jams, beach parties, interstellar robot fights, and '70s funk parties."

Ah ... just like *Reader* staff meetings.

For more information on Groovatron's Saturday-night concert, visit BentRiverBrewery.com . **- Mike Schulz**

The Santaland Diaries

Harrison Hilltop Theatre

Saturday, December 20 and Saturday, December 27

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[redacted]

Appeared in American Idol Season	Age	Born in	Musical genres
Chikezie	7	23	Inglewood, California
Diana DeGarmo	3	21	Birmingham, Alabama
David Hernandez	7	25	Phoenix, Arizona

Kimberly Locke	2	20	Hartsville, Tennessee

For more information on the "American Stars: Former *American Idol* Stars in Concert" event, visit AdlerTheatre.com . **-**
Mike Schulz

* *Yeah, these were all sung on the contestants' final nights of* American Idol. *If you get to meet the performers after their Adler show, be a sport and don't tell 'em I told you.*

A Nova Christmas

First Congregational Church in Moline, First Lutheran Church in Galesburg

Friday, December 19, and Saturday, December 20, 7:30 p.m.

Neither a PBS special nor the promise of the most scaldingly hot holiday season *ever*, *A Nova Christmas*
is actually the annual presentation by the Nova Singers, the 20-voice professional ensemble that has performed public concerts - and has participated in state, regional, and national music conventions - since the group's inception in 1986.

Taking place at Moline's First Congregational Church on December 19 and at Galesburg's First Lutheran Church on December 20, this year's *Nova Christmas* concerts will, as ever, find the ensemble performing under the direction of noted Knox College professor Laura Lane. Yet the Nova Singers will also be sharing their church venues with two groups no less enthusiastic than the Galesburg-based group, albeit considerably
shorter
: Members of the Holiday Children's Pops Children's Choir will lend their talents to Friday's Moline program, while the Carl Sandburg Children's Choir will take part in Saturday's Galesburg concert.

Among the inclusions in this season's *Nova Christmas* presentations will be a series of holiday-themed folk and jazz numbers, an audience sing-along of familiar yuletide tunes, new arrangements of traditional Christmas songs from Spain, beloved carols from England, the haunting "Carol of the Bells," and what is sure to be a
Nova Christmas
highlight: a performance of composer Morten Lauridsen's a cappella classic, "O Magnum Mysterium." Which, as a Christmas gift to myself, is what I'm officially changing my name to.

Tickets to the *Nova Christmas* concerts are $15 for adults and $10 for seniors, with students admitted free, can be reserved by calling (309) 341-7038; for more information on the Nova Singers themselves, visit http://deptorg.knox.edu/novasingers . **-**
O Magnum Mysterium