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Expect old and new from Crosby, Stills & Nash

[By Hector Saldaña](#)- Express-News

Forty years later, the Woodstock spirit lives on in Crosby, Stills & Nash.

“We're musicians and songwriters, and we want to communicate,” Nash told the Morning Call in Allentown, Pa.

For Graham Nash, that means the new antiwar protest song, “Not in My Name.” But for fans, it means the classic songs — many of which are being rediscovered on the new CD “Demos,” which reveals how some of their signature songs were born in the studio.

“In December '68, Crosby Stills & Nash were in New York, and we went into the studio at the Record Plant with Paul Rothchild, who had produced the Doors and Janis Joplin,” Nash said in the same interview with writer Alan Sculley. “That was the first time Crosby, Stills & Nash had ever recorded.”

Before that, the three musicians were known for their roles in the Byrds, Buffalo Springfield and the Hollies. But at Woodstock, they ushered in the singer-songwriter era and became America's first supergroup.

It was only their second gig. The moment made for one of the touchstones from the famous film “Woodstock.”

“This is the second time we've ever played in front of people, man,” said Stephen Stills that fateful night playing to 500,000 people in August 1969. “We scared (expletive)less.”

Crosby, Stills & Nash perform at Municipal Auditorium on Thursday. The Arts San Antonio-sponsored concert begins at 8 p.m.

It seems fitting that Crosby, Stills & Nash begin their two-part concerts as an acoustic act, going electric after the break.

“We're going to actually start acoustic,” Nash added.

“The first song will be with the band, but very gentle. Then me and David (Crosby) and Stephen will sing for six or seven great acoustic things, some new songs that we've learned, other people's that we're going to be doing for this Rick Rubin record we're going to record after the tour.

“And then a couple of other ones with the band, but gentle. Then we'll finish up the acoustic set with something like ‘Southern Cross.’ And we'll take a break and come back and play electric for an hour or

so.”

The canon is a legendary one: “Helplessly Hoping,” “Teach Your Children,” “Our House,” “Wooden Ships,” “Suite: Judy Blue Eyes,” “Marrakesh Express,” “4 + 20,” “Woodstock,” “Guinnevere” and “Long Time Gone.”

Add in songs from their respective solo careers and covers of the Rolling Stones (“Ruby Tuesday”) and Bob Dylan (“Girl From the North Country”) and others from the upcoming Rubin CS&N project, and it adds up to a baby boomers' soundtrack — spiritual, musical and nostalgic.

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