



## Nylons keep running

### Veteran a cappella act shows no signs of slowing down after 25 years

By DENIS ARMSTRONG

THE NYLONS keep getting better with age.

After 25 years and well into their fifth or sixth generation, the Nylons aren't nearly as campy as they once were but they were mighty playful at the Super Ex concert last night.

Long regarded as one of Canada's top a cappella popsters, the only original member left is tenor Claude Morrison, who is now joined by the R&B crooner Gavin Hope with Garth Mosbaugh and bass Tyrone Gabriel.

It was 1979 when four out-of-work actors working in restaurants on Queen St. West first came up with the concept of singing a cappella as a gay barbershop quartet. But thanks to stellar vocals and clever musical arrangements, the band was too good to be branded a novelty. So by the time they released their first album in 1982, they were already peaking as one of the hottest bands on Canada's burgeoning music scene.

Now, seven gold and six platinum records later, the band is preparing a 25th anniversary album for 2007.

#### FLAMBOYANCE

Accompanied now and then by a turntablist, the four singers turned in a remarkably entertaining and high energy show, with the veteran Morrison, the only member still showing flashes of the band's original flamboyance, sharing the lead vocals with Mosbaugh and newcomer Gavin Hope.

After 25 years of singing unaccompanied, the boys proved there really isn't a song they can't do an a cappella version of. Opening with Poison Ivy and Back on Track, they covered a range of classic hits including The Everly Brothers' All I Have To Do is Dream, Silhouettes, Good Old A Cappella and a soulful version of Dobie Grey's Drift Away throughout their 90-minute set.

Between songs, they kept the mood light with a generous amount of playful teasing, poking gentle fun at both themselves and the 1,000 or so fans that happily soaked up their feel-good vibrations.

"It's time to really let your hair down," Mosbaugh, who has been with the band since 1994, said encouragingly.

"That is, if you still have any hair left to let down."

"If The Beatles are the Fab Four, we're the pre-Fab Four," added Morrison before a finger-snapping version of This Boy and The Turtles Happy Together.

Rounding out their show with Late In the Evening, Rock and Roll Lullabye, Up On the Roof, the age-old standard The Lion Sleeps Tonight and, for their encore, Fire and Kiss Him Goodbye.

If they keep this up, expect to see The Nylons at Super Ex again in 2031.

Super Ex's Super Stage concert series continues with country singer Adam Gregory tonight at 8 p.m.

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#### NYLONS

#### SUPER EX SUPER STAGE

'Mighty playful!'

-- DENIS ARMSTRONG



The Nylons' Garth Mosbaugh, left, Tyrone Gabriel, Claude Morrison and Gavin Hope perform at Super Ex last night. (Sean Kilpatrick, SUN)

Sun Rating: 4 out of 5