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Music is right on time with Runnin' Late



By Frank Ellison
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The Reef
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Runnin' Late may be the most accomplished band in the state of Delaware - just not in the field of music. Fronted by a graduate of Harvard University and Jefferson Medical School, Dr. George Zlupko is very accomplished in the field of emergency medicine, but had never played in a band before stepping behind the microphone of Runnin' Late. Keyboardist Ned Gladfelter is the Vice Principal of Mt. Pleasant elementary school with multiple graduate degrees in his pocket - including one in music. Lead guitarist Elliot Lord is a U of D Electrical Engineering grad who writes machine-to-machine interfaces and device drivers (arguably the highest level in the field of software programming). Drummer Steve Breske received a BS in Chemical Engineering at the U of D and is still the prototypical engineer, working days in development for DuPont, and engineering everything from old sports cars to sound systems and recording sessions for Runnin' Late at night. Backing the band, Mark Samworth on bass has a BS from RIT, an MBA from U of D, and 11 patents in the field of imaging science. The most musically accomplished member of the band may be their latest addition – saxophonist Kevin Brace. Kevin has played with numerous jazz and blues bands, cut an album with “Flying on Instruments”, and is just now venturing into rock & roll with Runnin' Late. “People describe Runnin' Late as 'classic rock with a touch of jazz' ” explains Zlupko “Kevin’s our ‘touch of jazz’.”



“Professional musicians or not, Runnin' Late is one hell of a great band” comments Charley Ross, owner of “The Reef” in North Wilmington. “with sets that include Dave Matthews, Steely Dan, Supertramp, Chicago, and old Springsteen, they play one of the most musically complex repertoires in Delaware ... the first time they played the Reef I thought they were career musicians!” And that’s exactly the goal Runnin' Late sets out to achieve. “We want to sound like a band that plays out three nights a week, but the reality is that with schedules built around careers and families, we’re lucky to practice twice a month” say Gladfelter. “Ironically, our limited ‘group’ time has facilitated more complex music ... members are forced to learn songs at home and work out the intricacies on their own time.”

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"There is a freshness and an energy to Runnin' Late that you just don't see in bands who have been doing the same thing every week for thirty years" observes Bob Williams, owner of RP McMurphy's in Holmes, PA. "Last fall, they took the stage after the Phillies lost the LCS at 11 PM and had the dance floor packed until closing at 2AM ... the crowd even danced to their original songs" recalls Williams. "Original music is part of who we are" reflects Breske "we're in the process of recording a CD and we like to sneak in a few originals at every live performance, but we'll always maintain a respect for covering the great rock bands of our time ... and we promise to have as much fun playing that music as our fans have listening to it". Anyone who's seen Runnin' Late live will tell you, that's quite an accomplishment.

Runnin'Late will be appearing at Irish Eyes in Lewis, DE on May 29 and at RP McMurphy's in Holmes, PA on June 25.

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Frank T. Ellison is the owner of LSN ENTERTAINMENT which provides DJ, KJ, and musical acts throughout the Tri-State area. Frank can also be found... [Read more](#)

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