



NOW THAT WAS A PARTY This past weekend's **Chico Area Music Festival & Awards Show** was the 14th edition of the event, and **Arts DEVO** has been there every single year for the **CN&R**'s annual celebration of the local music scene. This one was probably the best. With an incredible sound system, huge dance floor and great beer for days, the **Sierra Nevada Big Room** is an ideal venue for a music party. Plus, the performers—from my new favorite Chico band, electro-pop duo **Astronaut Ice Cream**, to tuneful indie-rockers **Surrogate**—all brought it.

This year's event also was dedicated to musicians affected by the **Camp Fire** (and nearly \$1,700 in donations raised for the **Musicians Around the Camp Fire** fund). The show opened with a screening of the video for **John-Michael Sun**'s song "Refugee," featuring the artist singing his fragile, mournful tune among the ashes of his burned-out Paradise home, followed by a live duet performance by Sun and his partner, **Susan Dobra**.

The evening came to an end after a two-song performance by a 16-member supergroup featuring a handful of musicians whose homes were lost in the fire, including ringleader **Mark McKinnon**. The first tune was an emotional performance of a McKinnon original, "Just Breathe," a song he wrote in response to the fire. And for the second—which had the group changing its name from **Mark McKinnon and The Strolling Rogues** to the **Leonard Cohen Tribute Orchestra**—the choir of singers was put to good work on an uplifting rendition of the late songwriter's signature work, "Hallelujah." A very fitting way to close a great night of music and community.

Oh, and we also gave out some **CAMMIES** awards:

Peoples' Choice Award:

Best Local Act: **Lo & Behold**

Critics' Choice Awards:

Best Female Vocalist: **Jenise Coon**
(Chico High choral/music-theater director)

Best Keyboardist: **Webster Moore**
(Lo & Behold)

Best Guitarist: **Mike Justice**
(Sunny Acres)

Best Songwriter: **Becky Brown**
(Susurrus)

Best New Band: **Black Magnet**

Best Male Vocalist: **Pat Hull**

Best Local Album: **Pariah Days**, by
Severance Package

Best Bassist: **Austin Farwell** (Smokey the Groove)

Best Live Act: **Pervert**

Best Drummer: **Sean Raeside** (Pervert, Pat Hull)

Local Badasses: **Sally & Bruce MacMillan** (Music Connection)

Hogan/West/LaPado Lifetime Achievement Award: **Joe Hammons**

RETRO CHICO There wasn't a **CAMMIES** in Chico in the 1980s, but if there had been, **The Funnels** very likely would've cleaned up. During the band's 1980s-early 1990s heyday, the party crew was Chico's favorite thing next to beer (the band was actually sponsored by Budweiser!).

Now, nearly 30 years since they last rocked a local stage with their dance-happy new-wave covers and originals, the band will return to one of its favorite haunts, **La Salles**, this Saturday (April 27) for the third and final show of a mini reunion tour. Tickets are \$10 presale (lasalleschico.com) and \$12 at the door.



The Funnels, circa late-'80s



Astronaut Ice Cream
PHOTO BY JASON CASSIDY



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