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COMING IN FROM AUSTIN ► Blues/rock pianist Marcia Ball talks with us on Friday

Bringing the soul-rock to the mountain

BY PAUL FREEMAN
For The Daily News

Highest charting duo in pop history? Nope, not Simon & Garfunkel, nor the Everly Brothers. That honor goes to Hall & Oates, who return to Mountain Winery this weekend.

On Oct. 6, RCA/Legacy will release a deluxe Hall & Oates box set — "Do What You Want, Be What You Are."

"It was a really interesting process in putting together this box, because I controlled the songs,"

Daryl Hall told The Daily News. "A lot of times, with box sets, it's what the record company thinks is important. I thought it was important that we put on the songs that define the arc of our creative career, and not just the hits. The hits are there. But much more, much deeper than that.

"To hear songs that I had almost forgotten about, and to hear it all in a big gulp like that, I sort of became objective about my own music ..." Hall said. "We have done some amazing work, I have to say. It astounds even me."

What impresses is not only the quality, but the range of the work. "Casual listeners think of the hits — 'Maneater,' 'You Make My Dreams' and songs like that. But when you hear all those hits in context with the other music, you get a different perspective.

"We always said that we're not just hit-makers, but people didn't understand that. The breadth of our music is very apparent, when you listen to it in a situation like this. I always just tried to write great music and, if it became popu-



Daryl Hall, left, and John Oates at the BMI Pop Awards in Beverly Hills in 2008. Hall & Oates will perform at the Mountain Winery in Saratoga on Friday and Saturday nights.

lar, that was a bonus."

The title, "Do What You Want, Be What You Are," sums up the duo's philosophy. "That really states, in a larger sense, what's going on with us. We've always been very strong-willed people and forged our own way in a tough business. We did that by being what we were."

They've always been leading exponents of Philadelphia's soul-rock sound, built on harmo-

nies, melodic verses and strong choruses.

More than 40 years ago, Hall found a kindred spirit in Oates. "We share roots. But he's the opposite of me, which is good. John is a detail person, not a broad strokes person. He's a small strokes person. I tend to be more of a broad strokes person. I see things on a large scale. The combination of those two things works well to-

HALL & OATES, page 11

► HEALTH

Vet puts guitars in the hands of other injured vets

John Rola was recuperating from a kidney transplant last year in the Portland VA Medical Center when he began to do what he often did when he needed a diversion — strum his guitar. His fellow patients wanted to learn, and soon Rola was teaching them how to play. Not surprisingly, they experienced the same pleasure that Rola had found decades before when he first picked up a guitar as a young boy in Detroit.

The wards of 153 VA medical centers scattered across the country are filled with injured veterans. Some 273,300 veterans are rated as 100 percent disabled, and more join the ranks as partially or fully disabled on a regular basis. More than 300,000 soldiers were wounded in the Vietnam War — many of whom still seek treatment at VA centers — and more than 30,000 soldiers have been wounded thus far in the Iraq war.

To help veterans cope with their medical challenges, sound engineer and disc jockey John Rola founded Strumming for Vets (www.strummingforvets.org), a program that provides guitars and instruction for veterans at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. Rola, a Vietnam veteran, is also owner of AB Productions, a DJ entertainment company, and has worked as a recording engineer for numerous musicians.

Q: How did you get the **ANDERSON**, page 11

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7:00 PM

Understanding Atrial Fibrillation

Presented by Stanford Hospital Health Library

Atrial Fibrillation or AF, is the most common cardiac arrhythmia which affects over two million Americans. An arrhythmia is a problem with the speed or rhythm of the heartbeat. This talk will focus on this condition and the risks that accompany it, as well as the importance of diagnosing and treating it. This talk will cover a wide array of topics from new guidelines for atrial fibrillation therapy through future treatments for AF.

Speaker – Paul Wang, MD

Professor of Medicine (Cardiovascular Medicine), Stanford University Medical Center

Location

Oak Room, East, Tresidder Memorial Student Union, 459 Lagunita Dr., Stanford University

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