

EMILY SWEET LANDEGENT | STAFF WRITER



# Rock 'n' roll, done up right

## Arch Allies play tribute to three great '80s bands

**A** triune tribute. Catch the Arch Allies as they perform music by Styx, Journey and REO Speedwagon Saturday, Sept. 5 at the Preservation Plaza in Arnolds Park.

According to lead guitarist Kevin Todd, the Minneapolis/St. Paul-based band gives audiences the full experience of seeing the original bands perform live — from costume changes, to authentic vocals, to all their biggest hits.

"We want the crowd into our show," Todd said. "So we keep it all Top 40 hits."

Todd formed Arch Allies with bass guitarist Tom Dario in 2008. Since the three bands — Styx, Journey and REO Speedwagon — have complimentary music and toured together in the past, it made for a no-brainer combination tribute band that many could relate to.

"The music, the vocals, everybody seems to know the material," Todd said, "from 15-years-old all the way up to 60-years-old. It's wholesome, in my opinion, how can you not listen to REO, Styx and Journey? It's just really, well-done rock 'n' roll."

The big '80s sound, rich vocals, rich keyboards and rich guitar of Styx, Journey and REO Speedwagon are sounds the members of Arch Allies grew up with, Todd said.

While Todd has been playing guitar since he was 7 years old, he has picked up a wide variety of influences from guitarists throughout the '60s and '70s, such as Mark Farmer of Grand Funk Railroad, Chet Atkins, Roy Clark and Eddie Van Halen.

"The guitar players that I'm trying to emulate are phenomenal," Todd said. "I respect them, I admire

them, I wish I was them, but I'm doing the next best thing."

For their performance in Arnolds Park, the Arch Allies will be teaming up with another salute group, Free Fallin', a tribute to Tom Petty from St. Paul, MN who will open the show.

"They are phenomenal as well," Todd said. "The audience is in for a treat."

Todd encourages all to come. "If you're looking for probably the two top tribute acts in the Midwest, you'll see them there," Todd said. "It'll be a fun day for music." ♦

The tribute band Arch Allies will rock Preservation Plaza on Saturday Sept. 5 with hits from Styx, Journey and REO Speedwagon. Come enjoy this free show. Visit [www.archallies.com](http://www.archallies.com) for more information on the band.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

### At a Glance:

- **WHAT:** Arch Allies
- **WHERE:** Preservation Plaza, Arnolds Park Amusement Park, 37 Lake St, Arnolds Park
- **WHEN:** 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 5
- **COST:** Free
- **CONTACT:** 1-800-599-6995
- **ONLINE:** [www.archallies.com](http://www.archallies.com)

### Arch Allies:

- **Gabe Jacobs:** lead vocals
- **Kevin Todd:** lead guitar, vocals
- **Jon Wheeler:** keys, vocals
- **Erik Swenson:** percussion, vocals
- **Tom Dario:** bass guitar

### Set List:

Arch Allies play only the hits by Styx, Journey and REO Speedwagon. Here's a sampling of the tunes heard at their concerts:

#### Styx

- "Come Sail Away"
- "Lorelei"
- "Blue Collar Man"

#### Journey

- "Lights"
- "Separate Ways"
- "Don't Stop Believin'"

#### REO

- "Take It On The Run"
- "Roll With The Changes"

