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Time for Tempus?

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For a band named after the Latin word for "time," Tempus doesn't seem to have a lot of it.

"Outside of music, we all have day jobs," said lead guitarist-vocalist Chris Harvey of Old Tappan. "Two of the guys have full-time jobs, and myself and the bass player go to school full time and work part time."

In the seven busy years since Harvey and best friend Jose Rosario decided to start a band in Bogota, they have, however, found the time to record three albums of original music — albeit not the music you might imagine from their early influences.

"We were both in the [school] band in high school, and we had just gotten into music and bands like Yes and Rush," Harvey said. "You don't really hear that in our music, but they really inspired us."

Harvey eventually traded his trumpet for a guitar, while his pal Rosario refined his pop drumming. After teaming up with keyboardist Robert Paul and bassist Greg Colacino, they swapped their progressive rock sound for the more acoustic music that would come to fill their two professionally recorded albums, 2001's "Lie Like We Do" and 2004's "Keep Burning." Then they decided it was time for another change.

"After our first album, we did another studio attempt, and we found that we just didn't have the money and the time to really focus on the recording process," Harvey said. "This time around, with the new album, we bought a bunch of equipment and recorded in my basement and then had it professionally mixed."

In September the band released this homemade effort, "Got a Good Feeling," an optimistically titled collection of "denser" acoustic rock.

"We had all the time in the world to throw around ideas and produce the songs the way we wanted them to sound," Harvey added. "It was a lot more relaxed and a lot more fun. We ended up with a product we're happy with."

They also ended up with a product that wasn't exactly what they expected.

"We tried to scratch out something new with this album," Harvey said. "We use a whole bunch of effects pedals on guitar and tried to incorporate some bass effects that give the album a different dimension. Our keyboard player also went from using just piano

to organ, too. So we're messing around with everything."

The foursome will share their good feelings tonight at their "favorite place to play," Mexicali Live in Teaneck. Fans may also be able to hear a song or two at Tempus' favorite place to drink lattes.

"Our bass player works [at Starbucks], so we played there to promote our bigger show at Mexicali," Harvey said of a recent performance in Hasbrouck Heights. "It worked out very nicely. We played a small show and handed out fliers and stickers and actually sold a bunch of CDs."

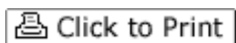
As Harvey says, they'll do anything they can — when they have the time — to get their name out there.

"You need people in high places to make it anywhere in this world," Harvey said with a chuckle, "but you gotta start somewhere — even if it's Starbucks."

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