

COMING UP: The Essentials singing the hits, holiday numbers

Dose of doo-wop served up

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Do you like a little doo-wop with your holiday cheer?

If so, then you're in luck as a cappella group The Essentials will perform at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park on Dec. 5.

"Anyone who's ever come to a show, we see them again," said Mark Watson, manager of the vocal group. "It's a good time all around."

The group formed 18 years ago in London, Ont., after a chance meeting in the high school choir.

The group found their niche in doo-wop music and quickly became a regular feature in the parking lot of London's Merla Mae Ice Cream

Parlour.

"The group was doing a lot of doo-wop at that time and the old-fashioned ice cream shop was a good fit," Mr. Watson said.

The group has since released six CDs, including 2007's holiday compilation *Stocking Stuffer*, which was certified gold in Canada with 50,000 units sold. Their first CD of original material is expected to be released next year.

The group has performed with the likes of Little Richard, Burton Cummings and Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons.

They have also appeared in the made-for-TV holiday movie *A Holiday Romance/A Song for the Season*, which stars Andy Griffith, Naomi

Judd and Gerald McRaney.

Earlier this year, the group's lineup added a new voice, Janet Turner. She is the first female to join The Essentials.

On Dec. 5, the group will not only be putting their unique vocal stylings to the holiday hits, but they will also perform numbers from their regular show, which include *Brown Eyed Girl*, *Duke of Earl* and songs by The Beatles and Michael Jackson.

"People think of old stuff (when they think doo-wop) and on the boring side," Mr. Watson said. "I can assure you that's not the case."

Tickets are available at the Nineteen on the Park box office through www.townofws.com/Nineteen.asp or by calling 905-640-2322.

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11, Stouffville Sun-Tribune ■ Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009



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