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Admit it: ABBA tribute band sounds like fun

By Nancy Baca
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It seems fitting that the Arizona State Fair, home of the deep-fried Twinkie, should wrap up its 18-day run with the ultimate in musical guilty pleasures: an ABBA tribute band.

And not just any tribute band. Waterloo, which performs "ABBA: The Music" on Sunday at Veterans Memorial Coliseum, comes from Stockholm, Sweden, and features two musicians who performed with Sweden's disco superstars in the '70s.

Waterloo singer Camilla Dahlin, 37, is a lifelong fan who remembers lip-synching to the band's hits for friends and family at the age of 10. She and fellow ABBA-phile Katja Nord formed the tribute in 1996, winning acclaim on the Swedish TV show Reach for the Stars. The current lineup includes former ABBA associates Ulf Andersson and Mats Ronander.

Dahlin calls herself a perfectionist and is constantly working to improve her act.

"We listen, listen, listen very carefully to small things like where they breathe," she says, on the phone from Stockholm.

"When they see us, we want to give them the feeling of seeing ABBA live."

Famous for such campy '70s hits as Dancing Queen, Mamma Mia and Waterloo, ABBA broke up in 1983 but enjoyed a second surge in popularity in the '90s, thanks in part to movie soundtracks such as Muriel's Wedding and The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert.

Craig Jackson, music director for KESZ-FM (99.9) and host of a weekly '70s show, says listeners continue to request the band's music.

Reach the reporter at (602) 444-8994.

"Voulez Vous"