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Public Relations for the Recorded and Performing Arts

# THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

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## Greyboy a bit more vocal

By PAUL SAITOWITZ

When you attain the level of musicianship that Elgin Park has, playing music just to thrill the audience is no fun. It's not that Park and his band mates in funk/jazz combo the Greyboy Allstars are averse to making onlookers boogie; they just don't want to make things too easy.

For this reason, the decision to sprinkle some vocals over the tracks on the band's latest set - this year's "What Happened to Television?" - was not executed lightly. The set is the group's first in a decade, and Park and company didn't want to give any one the wrong idea.

"We thought it would be fun to add some vocals, but we don't want to be thought of as the instrumental band that turned into the singing band," Park said in a telephone interview. "The thing that people always say about us is that they don't know who to focus on when we're playing live because we're all just playing instruments ... we like that and it will always be an important part of who we are."

Greyboy reconvened in 2006 for a tour after close to a decade of inactivity. During the hiatus, the group's members pursued music in different capacities - saxophonist Karl Denson and keyboardist Robert Walter had solo careers, Park worked as a producer, DJ Greyboy continues to spin in clubs,

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and bassist Chris Stillwell and drummer Zak Najor have played in numerous projects - but fans longed for the comeback for years.

The response has been resoundingly positive. Critics and fans alike have universally hailed "What Happened to Television?" and the band's live performances have been as electric as ever.

Greyboy is an amalgam of funk, rock and dance music, which makes for a multi-layered live experience. Each show offers extended periods of improvisational jamming, DJ-centric grooves and even some sing-a-longs. The group can't necessarily be pigeonholed into one scene, which makes for a rather broad fan base.

"It's hard to say where we fit in exactly ... there are variances in what we do so it appeals to different people," Park said.

The band already has plans for a follow-up to "What Happened to Television?" and hopes to begin recording in early 2008.

"Really, for us, songs are just conversations," Park said. "One of us will start playing something and the rest of us will try to answer him. As long as it's a good and meaningful conversation the song should turn out OK."