

## Play it again, Dave *Class President to serenade grads*



Dave Caruso, president of Trenton High School Class of 1979, will return this weekend to perform as he wrote for the more than 500 graduates 20 years ago.

**By Pat Andrews**  
Focus Editor

Twenty years have passed since Dave Caruso last serenaded his classmates en masse.

It was June of 1979 and the Trenton High School senior, already an accomplished musician, wrote and then performed a class song.

"With a reunion party scheduled for this weekend, I've been hearing from many of my classmates asking if I'm going to play the song again," he said.

Caruso, still a Trenton resident and the owner of Aural Contact Productions, will bring a string quartet with him to Crystal Gardens Friday night.

"The song was originally written for a string quartet and I thought it would be exciting and in keeping with the original recording to perform with strings on this anniversary," he added.

He said the group is called Equilibrium and, ironically, is comprised of high school musicians.

The tune, titled simply, "Class Song," explored the bittersweet side of young adulthood and the importance of strong bonds in friendship.

Caruso attributes much of the song's success to Trenton High teacher Dennis Hamilton, who encouraged his student's songwriting talent.

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"Actually, there was a vote and it was Mr. Hamilton who helped to get my song on the ballot."

Caruso, who was the class president, confesses now that it was a pretty scary scene for an 18-year-old.

"There I was, sitting at a piano in an auditorium filled with more than 500 of my peers, playing a song they'd never heard before, and then having them vote on it in the span of a few short minutes. My leg shook uncontrollably on the pedal as I played it for the first time."

Caruso has received many touching letters, e-mails, and comments over the years from alumni, expressing how much the song meant to them.

Part of the reason for the group's enthusiastic allegiance to the song is its lyric, which reminisces openly about life during high school. It even mentions the school football team, The Trojans, and the school colors, blue and gold.

Even though the class of 1979 considers the song highly personal, that didn't stop the senior class at Cabrini High School in Allen Park from adopting the song as their own in 1981.

The original vinyl single of "Class Song" went on to sell just under 5,000 copies.

On the eve of the song's latest milestone, a new CD is being released, containing an all-new recording of the original, plus a second version with

a more universal lyric.

This is the first time that it has been available in CD form.

Copies of the song were recently sent to Karen Savelly, a disc jockey at 94.7 WCSX and host of a weekday radio program "The Classic Class Reunion.

You can request Savelly to play the song by calling (248) 945-9470 or by visiting the station web site at:

[www.wcsx.com/f\\_jocks.htm](http://www.wcsx.com/f_jocks.htm).



A Special Twentieth-Anniversary  
Commemorative Recording

# Class Song

by Dave Caruso

Sneak preview from the forthcoming album,  
"You Verses"

Featuring Dave Caruso & The Room Upstairs

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