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Nada Surf's big cover-up

BY HAL BIENSTOCK

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During the last 14 years, Nada Surf has undergone an unlikely transformation from one-hit wonder (1996's "Popular") to beloved indie-rock institution.

The band is playing three of its albums in their entirety at three venues this week. It will also premiere songs from its new album, a collection of covers called "If I Had a Hi-Fi."

amNewYork spoke with singer Matthew Caws about the songs they chose.

On stage

Nada Surf is performing "Let Go" on Thursday at Bowery Ballroom; "The Weight Is a Gift" at The Bell House in Brooklyn on Friday; and "Lucky" at the Music Hall of Williamsburg on Saturday. Thurs. & Fri., 8 p.m., Sat., 9 p.m. \$25 each

"Enjoy the Silence" by Depeche Mode: "I heard this in my car and it struck me as a great pop song, but there were a couple of things I really didn't like about it. I thought, 'What would I

do if I had written it?' So I changed some chords and some of the melody until I could sustain the illusion I had written it."

"The Agony of Laffitte" by Spoon: "That song is about an A&R [artists and repertoire] guy at Elektra. We have a similar story where we were wined and dined and in the end let down. I remember hearing it and thinking it was such a right-on jab at a company that was pretending to be on the side of the artist, but really wasn't."

"Love and Anger" by Kate Bush: "Kate has a lot of great songs, but I haven't listened to them much. This was one I fell for in my 20s that stuck with me."

"Question" by Moody Blues: "That's a really kooky song. Lyrically, it's of the moment, since people are asking a lot of questions about war."



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