

38 Special: Band reloads for weekend show at Bogart's

By Phyllis Cruze
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Max Carl's wife Mary is a lucky lady.

Her Valentine's Day gift is something few women have.

Carl, co-vocalist, songwriter and keyboard player for the Southern rock group 38 Special, penned the song "Signs of Love" (on the Charisma album "Bone Against Steel") for her.

"I've known my wife since high school," says Carl. "We were high-school sweethearts, and we've managed to stick to it through all these years."

The single has been getting airplay around the country, and it's one of the songs the audience at 38 Special's show at Bogart's on Sunday will hear.

They'll also hear something they've never heard from the band: "We're doing an acoustic set for the first time, something I've wanted to do since I joined the band," Carl said. "We're going to do about four acoustic pieces in the set."

"Bone Against Steel" is 38 Special's 10th album in the band's 15-year career that contains two platinum releases, two movie soundtrack singles and several top-10 and No. 1 songs.

Their hits include "Wild-Eyed Southern Boys," "Rockin' Into The Night," "Fantasy Girl" and "Hold on Loosely."

Carl is part of 38 Special's current lineup, which includes relative newcomers Scott Meeder on drums and Danny Chauncey on guitars, as well as veteran 38 members Jeff Carlisi on guitar, Larry Junstrom on bass and vocalist Donnie Van Zant.

Carl joined the band in 1987 and began writing songs with other members of the band. Besides "Songs of Love," his other solo songwriting effort on the current album is its title track.

"I try to make them (the songs) poetic, and I try to make them relatable — and that's a difficult task," he said. "There are some singular experiences that strike a chord with people and become hit songs. I believe that songs that are the most commonly accepted are the ones that everyone has an experience with — some common ground."

38 Special, with opening act Webb Wilder, plays Bogart's at 7 p.m. Sunday. Tickets, \$14.75, are available at Bogart's ticket window, at TicketMaster, or by calling 749-4949.